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WEEKEND, JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1, 2009 metronews.ca

Movies

Teacher flick in own Class

pg 18

Celebrity Buzz

LiLo's pop wants fans' help

pg 26

It's a bouncing baby ... beluga

WHALES Staff at the Vancouver Aquarium are excitedly preparing for the birth of another bouncing baby beluga whale after announcing yesterday a whale is pregnant.

The 20-year-old whale, whose oldest calf, Qila gave birth seven months ago, is due in June or July.

Papa

- The aquarium's lone male beluga, 20-year-old Imaq, is the father.

Brian Sheehan, curator of marine mammals at the aquarium, said staff learned Aurora was expecting last spring, but kept mum on the pregnancy for the same reasons people do.

"There are a lot of things that can happen," Sheehan said. "As we enter the third trimester, it's a safer period of time." METRO CANADA

VIDEO Watch Aurora, beluga whale mom-to-be, at www.metronews.ca/vancouver

NFL
Super Bowl XLIII

- Marty York's prop bets, pg 10
- Top 10 Super Bowls, page 12
- Where to watch the big game, pg 10
- Canadians on the Super Bowl stage, pg 12
- Rick McGinnis on TV ads, pg 23
- Exclusive blogs at metronews.ca

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Mayor Larry O'Brien, left, speaks at a news conference to announce the end of Ottawa's transit strike Thursday evening as Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 president Andre Cornellier looks on. The city and the union told media they had tentatively agreed to send all outstanding issues to binding arbitration without any preconditions. More coverage, pg 7

Bus strike over

But no word on when the system will be up and running

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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After 51 days, Ottawa's transit strike is finally over.

Mayor Larry O'Brien, Amalgamated Transit Union international vice-president Randy Graham and ATU 279 president Andre Cornellier announced Thursday evening they had tentatively agreed to send all outstanding issues, including scheduling, to binding arbitration without any preconditions.

"The federal government of Canada has started the process of back-to-work legislation," said O'Brien. "When both parties realized that the end of the strike was inevitable, both parties decided it was time to get back to work."

"We're anxious to get the service back on the street. We're going to ... ensure that it happens as fast as possible."
Randy Graham, Amalgamated Transit Union

Graham said they could not give exact timelines on when the buses will return.

"We're anxious to get the service back on the street," he said. "We're going to work together to ensure that it happens as fast as possible."

Although the agreement brings an end to the strike, there is still no resolution to the contract dispute.

Graham said those issues are still significantly different, but they will now be resolved by a third party.

Previously, the city had insisted that any binding arbitration decision would not increase the cost of the contract offer and the scheduling system must conform to federal work-rest safety regulations. Last week, the union had offered to send all issues to arbitration with the exception of scheduling, which they wanted handled by an independent fact-finder.

O'Brien said he was confident the arbitration process will result in a fair offer for both sides, but the city would continue to work with Transport Canada to ensure "an appropriate review" of public safety rules pertaining to drivers.

City council will meet on Friday to discuss the deal. More details on when bus service will return are expected after that meeting.

Coun. Maria McRae, chair of the Transportation Committee, said she was optimistic some bus service would return by next week.

"My No. 1 priority, now that the strike is over, is to get the buses back on the road. Get our riders back on the buses, and we have to re-establish relationship with our operators," she said.

Kid banned for chatting to Cherry

CONTROVERSY Don Cherry loves it when kids talk to him. But an Oshawa teen has been banned from his job as a volunteer cameraman at the General Motors Centre for doing just that.

Billy Steele, 17, was told approaching a celebrity like Cherry at a special hockey event two-and-a-half weeks ago was against the rules.

The company that runs the centre, Global Spectrum, said he's no longer welcome in the building in his capacity as a volunteer with Rogers TV, which covers OHL games there.

Billy Steele

The edict has outraged Billy's father, Bill Steele, who's filed a human rights complaint alleging workplace discrimination because his son has a severe learning disability.

And Cherry is "infuriated" with Global Spectrum over the incident.

"Oh, geez, please, me complain? I love it when kids come up and are friendly like that. I welcome kids — that's why I wear those goofy ties," he said, offering to talk to Global Spectrum to get Billy his job back.

Although Cherry didn't complain about the incident, Billy had been warned "numerous times" about violating procedures, which include not initiating conversations with athletes and celebrities, said Vince Vella, general manager of the city-owned sports and entertainment facility.

The Cherry chat was the latest in a series of infractions, he said.

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Police seek male suspect in Stittsville robbery

A lone male robbed a business at 1 Hobin St. in Stittsville Wednesday afternoon. Police are seeking an English-speaking white male in his 40s, 5-5 to 5-7 with a small to medium build, fair skin and deep wrinkles under his eyes. METRO OTTAWA

Local

Diefenbunker welcomes West Carleton

Canada's Cold War Museum is hosting its first West Carleton month this February. Hoping to encourage the local community to visit and learn about the $1.5-million fundraising campaign launched to increase visitor capacity, the Diefenbunker is offering township residents a free tour of the museum. METRO OTTAWA

Police STEP up action against unsafe drivers

FEBRUARY Police will be cracking down on speeders and drivers who make unsafe lane changes next month.

Through its selective traffic enforcement program (STEP), the city's integrated road safety program is focusing on drivers who make unsafe lane changes and those who speed.

In 2007, there were 1,046 reportable collisions that occurred on Ottawa roads due to drivers changing lanes unsafely. These collisions resulted in two deaths and 134 injuries — four of them life-threatening.

There were also 3,107 reportable collisions in Ottawa in 2007 as a result of drivers exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for conditions. These collisions resulted in 17 deaths and 967 injuries, 57 of them serious.

STEP is trying to reduce traffic fatalities or serious injuries by 30 per cent by 2010.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Separate crashes claim 2 brothers, man

TRACEY TONG
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Three people, including brothers from Gatineau, were killed in two crashes in south Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley on Thursday morning.

Two men died after their car collided with an SUV at the intersection of Albion and Lester roads in the city's south end at around 6:40 a.m.

Following an investigation, police said a Honda Civic was travelling eastbound on Lester Road when the driver lost control of his vehicle and rotated into the path of a westbound Jeep Grand Cherokee and was T-boned.

Witnesses sought

- Police are asking witnesses of the Lester Road collision to call 613-236-1222, ext. 2481.

Ottawa paramedics arrived to find two male occupants in the Civic. They pronounced the 25-year-old male passenger deceased at the scene and rushed the driver of the vehicle, a 31-year-old man, to the Ottawa hospital's trauma centre with multi-system injuries, said Ottawa paramedic spokesman J.P. Trottier.

"He died shortly after arrival," Trottier said.

The deceased were brothers from Gatineau, said Ottawa police Const. J.P. Vincelette.

Paramedics also treated the two occupants of the SUV for injuries, Trottier said.

A 47-year-old woman suffered chest and lower-leg injuries while a 50-year-old man suffered minor chest injuries. They were taken to hospital, where they are in stable condition.

The Ottawa police collision investigation unit remained on scene until Thursday afternoon, and Vincelette said they have ruled out alcohol as a factor.

Over in the Ottawa Valley at around the same time, a man was killed after his car collided with a tractor-trailer near Pembroke.

The collision occurred just after 7 a.m. on Highway 17 between Whitewater and Greenwood roads. The area was closed to traffic for several hours while police investigated.

Paramedics here have seen a few fatal and serious collisions in the past month, said Trottier.

Paramedics are advising people to adjust their driving to the weather and road conditions.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

D'Arcy McGee's chef Charles MacInnis and the Winterlude Ice Hog ogle some of the dishes MacInnis created for the Taste of Winterlude event. Taste of Winterlude, which kicked off Thursday, is expected to pack the Sparks Street pub for the duration of the festival.

Keep your taste buds warm at Winterlude

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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Ottawa Winterlude '09

"I think we've got interesting selections on menus that you may not see at other times of the year."
Taste of Winterlude's Sean Moher

You can skate on the canal, play in the Snowflake Kingdom and take in the ice sculptures, but to get the full Winterlude experience, you have to taste it.

The Taste of Winterlude program kicked off this weekend, with more than 55 restaurants in Ottawa and Gatineau offering special meals and dozens of special culinary and wine tasting events spread throughout the next three-and-a-half weeks.

Many of the menus feature ingredients produced locally and paired with Ontario wines, said Taste of Winterlude co-ordinator Sean Moher.

"Winterlude is Canada's winter festival and we're trying to showcase what the national capital region has to offer," he said. "I think we've got interesting selections on menus that you may not see at other times of the year."

Moher said the winemaker dinners on Feb. 17 and 19 featuring wineries paired with a local restaurant is one of the highlights of the festivities.

While the programming obviously helps out-of-towners find a great place to eat, Jantine Van Kregten with Ottawa Tourism said it is also gives residents an opportunity to discover local restaurants that they might otherwise overlook.

One of the "coolest" events this year, said Van Kregten, are the walkabout winter feasts that start with appetizers at one place, and move to five restaurants for each course.

Interested diners can sign up for the feasts on the winterlude.gc.ca.

Kitchen fire causes evacuation of highrise residents

SMOKE Residents of a 14-storey apartment building in the city's south end were evacuated after a kitchen fire Thursday afternoon.

Firefighters attended a sixth-floor apartment of 2870 Cedarwood Dr. at around 12:15 p.m. Thursday, said Ottawa district Fire Chief Monty Malloy.

Thirty-six firefighters with 15 fire trucks arrived at the scene to find heavy smoke on the sixth floor, said Malloy.

"We did a fast extinguishment of the fire, but the smoke emanated throughout the building," he said.

There were no injuries and no estimates for the smoke damage.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

CLEANING CAPITAL More than 100 tons of trash were collected during the 2008 spring and fall cleaning the capital campaigns. It is the biggest litter pickup and graffiti removal campaign in Canada, the city said Thursday. The 2009 annual cleanup campaign will kick off on April 15. Volunteers can start registering online starting March 15.

METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Watch Aurora, beluga whale mom-to-be, at **www.metronews.ca/vancouver**

Blogs For all things Super Bowl, check out Laurence Heinen's blog all weekend at **metronews.ca/blogs**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 2 2 9; **Ontario Pick 4:** 3 2 0 0
Encore: 3670972
Daily Keno: 5, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 28, 29, 32, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 56, 57, 59, 64, 65, 70
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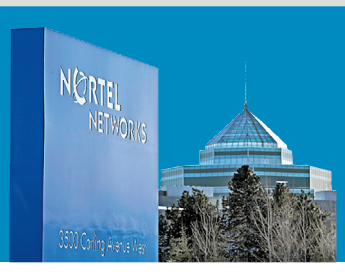
B.C. RCMP accused of torture will not be investigated

Three Prince George, B.C., RCMP officers slammed by a judge for deliberately losing or destroying video surveillance tape alleged to show the "torture" of a handcuffed man with a Taser will not face an internal code of conduct investigation, an RCMP spokesperson said Thursday. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Nortel abandons WiMax

Nortel Networks Corp., the ailing telecom equipment provider, has decided to abandon its WiMax wireless technology business as it restructures in bankruptcy protection. In the months leading up to its filing for bankruptcy protection, Nortel hailed WiMax — essentially a type of fast, next-generation wireless technology — as very promising. REUTERS

Ottawa may have to boost stimulus

Could be decades before federal budgets return to surpluses, economist says

The federal government could soon discover the billions pledged this week to spend its way out of recession will fall short of the task, forcing it to consider another wave of stimulus and even heftier budget deficits.

The Conservative government presented its 2009 budget on Tuesday, containing a $40-billion mix of spending initiatives and tax cuts over two years, which it hopes will ease the pain of recession and keep credit flowing.

The total package represents 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product and pales in comparison to U.S. President Barack Obama's $819 billion package, equivalent to about six per cent of GDP.

While most agree Ottawa's plan is helpful, some economists are skeptical it can deliver the needed jolt to the economy, or that the government can contain deficits to five years.

"We're only in the first or second inning," said Jeff Rubin, chief economist at CIBC.

"Ottawa's going to be delivering a lot more stimulus to the economy in the next two to three years. And it's not going to matter whether those are Conservative or Liberal budgets," he said.

"Canadians weren't quite prepared to accept the kind of deficits that Americans are today, but that is going to change."
Jeff Rubin, CIBC chief economist

The $85-billion hole in federal finances created by the budget package — after 11 years of surpluses — may not be as easy to fill by 2013-14 as the government predicts, economists say.

Niels Veldhuis, director of fiscal studies at the right-wing Fraser Institute, says one reason for that is the bullish economic assumptions in the budget combined with overly conservative projections of fiscal spending.

"Those two things together don't lend themselves well to ensuring that there will be balanced books over five years," Veldhuis said.

The cuts to personal income taxes, the only big-ticket item that was not labeled as temporary, could also encumber future governments trying to balance revenues and expenses.

Moody's Investor Services cautioned on Wednesday that the timing of a return to surpluses in Canada was in question and that the tax cuts "could possibly lessen the country's future fiscal flexibility."

Despite the deficits, it upheld Canada's AAA government bond rating because of past debt reductions.

National pride in the country's hard-won status as one of the most debt-free rich nations is hitting up against the hard reality of the global financial crisis, Rubin said. He thinks Canadians will actually start demanding bigger deficits as the recession destroys more jobs, making additional spending more palatable to politicians in coming months.

"Canadians weren't quite prepared to accept the kind of deficits that Americans are today, but that is going to change and it will be years, if not decades, before we see budget surpluses in Ottawa," he said.

REUTERS

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Classes to resume as back-to-work order passes

EDUCATION York University was buzzing Thursday as students returned to campus and scrambled to get a head start before classes restart Monday.

Pickets were down, buses were back on campus and the food court near the students' centre was packed with dozens of anxious undergraduates hunched over their laptops reading or taking notes.

"It doesn't look like a ghost town any longer," said Nicole Abbaticchio, a third-year student.

The strike shut down the campus on Nov. 6 when 3,340 teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants walked off the job.

"It doesn't look like a ghost town any longer."
Nicole Abbaticchio

The Ontario legislature passed back-to-work legislation Thursday, ending the three-month strike. The bill was delayed several days by the NDP, but finally passed by a vote of 61-8 with support from Liberals and Progressive Conservatives, then given royal assent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CALVIN SUN/REUTERS

Christoph Sensen, right, and Bob Church, both faculty members of the University of Calgary, stand on the prairie at a ranch outside Airdrie, Alta. They have developed a blood test that can diagnose fatal chronic wasting disease in elk, and believe it may provide a cheap way to screen cattle for mad cow disease.

New test may screen for mad cow disease

HEALTH Researchers in Alberta have developed a blood test that can diagnose fatal chronic wasting disease in elk, and believe it may provide a cheap way to screen cattle for mad cow disease.

The test looks for signs of damaged cells in the blood, they reported in the journal Nucleic Acids Research. It may also offer a way to diagnose people with a related disease called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or CJD, they said Thursday.

"We can now take a blood sample from a live animal and look at the DNA patterns in the blood and predict six months ahead of time whether an animal is infected with chronic wasting disease," Christoph Sensen of the University of Calgary said in a telephone interview.

The secret is not finding the prions that cause mad cow disease and other so-called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or TSEs, Sensen said. Instead they looked for circulating nucleic acids — little bits of DNA that get spat out when distressed cells die.

The found three distinct patterns in these circulating pieces of DNA that appeared three months before the elk showed symptoms. Each pattern correlated with genetic mutations known to put the animals at higher risk of contracting the disease.

TSEs such as chronic wasting disease, mad cow disease, scrapie and CJD destroy the brain and can happen spontaneously, but are also passed from animal to animal by eating infected tissue. REUTERS

Conservatives set to toughen consumer safety regulations

LEGISLATION More than a year after Prime Minister Stephen Harper complained about Canada's outdated consumer safety regulations, the federal Conservatives are taking another shot at toughening the laws.

The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act introduced yesterday would give Ottawa new power to enforce the recall of unsafe products and slap big fines on corporate offenders who produce them.

"This will modernize the legislation. It will also equip the government with new tools to act quickly and effectively," Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said.

"As it is right now, we cannot recall any products. There's no reporting of incidents. It's very, very weak," she said in an interview.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Overhaul

- The bill is an effort to overhaul existing laws that date back 40 years and that have left the government relying on manufacturers to voluntarily recall unsafe products, officials say.

News in brief

DISCOVERY Southern Alberta has its very own Stonehenge, claims a University of Alberta professor. Gordon Freeman says that about 70 km east of Calgary, there's an open-air stone temple that marks the changing seasons and the phases of the moon. "Genius existed on the prairies 5,000 years ago," he said. He has published his findings in a new book titled Alberta's Stonehenge.

DEFICIT Ontario will be awash in red ink for the foreseeable future, but Finance Minister Dwight Duncan insists there is no danger of returning to the crippling shortfalls of the early 1990s. Duncan acknowledged yesterday the budget he is set to introduce in late February or early March will boast a more sizeable deficit than the current $500-million shortfall.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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the Bay

WWW.THEBAY.COM

Breast-cancer genes increase severity of prostate cancer, study shows

The so-called breast-cancer genes BRCA1 and BRCA2 can raise the risk that a man who develops prostate cancer will get an aggressive form of the disease, U.S. researchers reported. Certain mutations in the genes indicated a man was at risk of more aggressive cancer and should be treated right away. **REUTERS**

World

Implants do not raise cancer risk

Women with cosmetic breast implants do not appear to have a higher risk of developing any type of cancer, even years after the surgery, according to a new study. Researchers who studied more than 6,200 women found the long-term risk of developing breast cancer was lower than the norm, and there was no change in the odds of suffering from other cancers.

REUTERS

Obama signs first bill with pay-equity law

U.S. President Barack Obama signed his first bill into law Thursday, handing his labour and women's rights backers a victory by reversing a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court decision that made it harder to sue for pay discrimination.

With the woman for whom the law was named at his side, Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act at a White House ceremony. The Democratic-led Congress passed the measure this week and many leaders attended the signing.

"Signing this bill today is to send a clear message: That making our economy work means making sure it works for everybody, that there are no second-class citizens in our workplaces," said the Democratic president.

Pay equity was a sensitive issue during the presidential election campaign last year, especially among labour unions and women voters. On average, U.S. women are paid 23 per cent less than men, while minority women receive even less.

Ledbetter is an Alabama woman who discovered after 19 years on the job at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. that she was the lowest-paid supervisor at her plant despite having more experience than several male co-workers.

A jury found she was the victim of discrimination.

But during the Bush administration, the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision reversed what critics described as decades of legal precedent by declaring that discrimination claims must be filed within 180 days of the first offence.

REUTERS

Criticism

- Some Republicans and business leaders have expressed concern the measure could trigger an explosion of lawsuits based on old claims, discourage employers from hiring women and undermine efforts to stem the recession.

ROBERT PRATTA / REUTERS

Public- and private-sector workers demonstrate during a protest march Thursday in Lyon.

French unions call massive strike

LABOUR Hundreds of thousands of teachers, nurses, factory workers and plumbers marched through French cities on Thursday to demand raises and job protection.

The demonstrations were the high point of a nationwide one-day strike called by France's eight main trade unions to try to persuade President Nicolas Sarkozy and business leaders to do more to help ordinary people overcome the economic crisis.

But the stoppage, billed as a "Black Thursday," did not bring France to a halt as others have done.

One-in-three schoolteachers and rail workers and one-in-four workers at the post office and the electricity company EDF walked off the job.

In a rare show of unity, the unions drew up a joint list of demands for the government and companies, demanding that Sarkozy drop reforms that they see as a threat to public services and aim stimulus measures at consumers rather than companies.

Specific demands included better pay and conditions for public transport workers, as well as dropping plans to reform the health sector and cut 13,500 jobs in education this year. **REUTERS**

Economic turmoil

- France's woes are less severe than Spain's or Britain's, but its jobless rate is rising, hitting 2.07 million in November, up 8.5 per cent. Unions say Sarkozy's 26 billion euro stimulus plan is not enough.

Israel must investigate war-crime charges: U.S.

GAZA Israel must investigate allegations that its army violated international law during its three-week war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, the new U.S. envoy to the United Nations said Thursday.

"We expect Israel will meet its international obligations to investigate and we also call upon all members of the international community to refrain from politicizing these important issues," Ambassador Susan Rice said.

Rice said that Hamas had been guilty of violating international law through rocket attacks against Israeli civilians and the use of civilian facilities to provide protection for attacks.

Israel fired on several UN installations in Gaza, including schools, where hundreds of Palestinians had been seeking shelter. Israel rejects allegations that its army was guilty of war crimes. **REUTERS**

Harassment forces Afghan girls from attending school

MIDDLE EAST Every day, as they walked to school, Maryam Mansoor and her sister ran a gauntlet of intimidation and harassment by youths with knives.

"A lot of my classmates ... don't come to school anymore because they fear the boys' harassment and kidnappings," said Maryam, 18, who quit school at her father's urging.

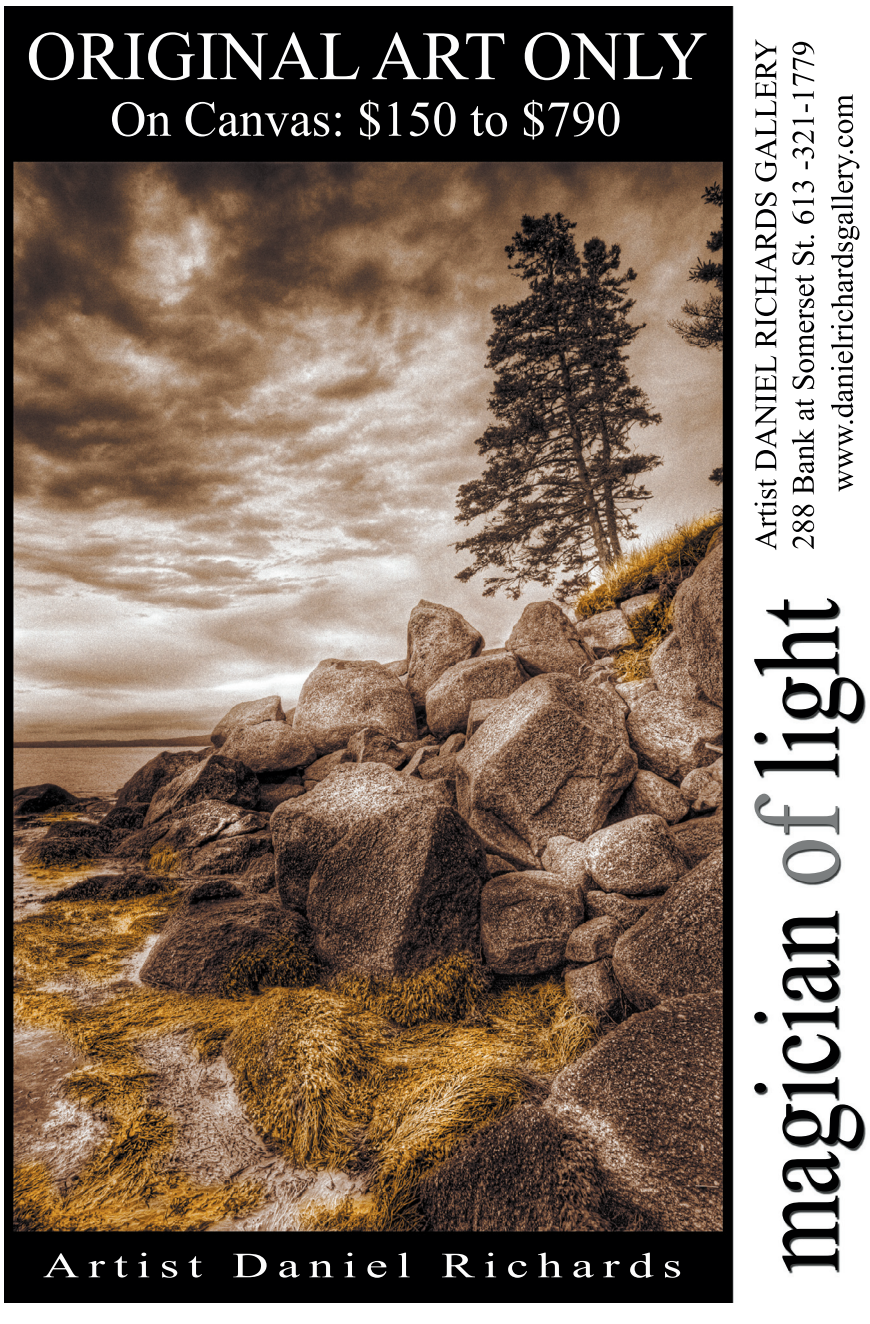
From acid attacks, murder, torching of schools and sexual assault, violence is dashing the dreams of thousands of Afghan girls and women who are thirsty for an education that may help rejuvenate the economy and society of their country.

In the deeply conservative south, the Taliban have torched schools, killed female students and teachers and attacked schoolgirls with acid. **REUTERS**

News in brief

BLAGOJEVICH Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was convicted of impeachment charges and removed from office Thursday, eight weeks after he was arrested on charges of trying to sell a U.S. Senate seat. The Illinois Senate voted 59-0 to oust him immediately, and by the same margin barred him from holding public office in the state again.

IRAQ An Iraqi town has unveiled a giant monument of a shoe honouring a journalist who threw his footwear at former U.S. president George W. Bush. **REUTERS**



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Comment & Views

Comment

EPFX offers 'miracle' cures

Machine being sold in Canada as unsupported claims grow

Marketplace

In my years as a reporter covering health stories, I thought I'd seen it all. But nothing compares to my investigation into the latest "miracle" machine that is sweeping Canada.

It's called the EPFX — Electro Physiological Feedback Xrroid. You can find it in alternative healthcare clinics, chiropractor and massage therapists. A session costs up to $200.

To buy the machine and start operating as an EPFX practitioner costs about $20,000 — not exactly chump change. The company's inventor claims he's selling about 40 devices a month in Canada (do the math — that's $800,000 a month).

The device is hooked up to a patient with straps that wrap around the ankles, wrists, and forehead. The device supposedly reads the body's reactivity to various frequencies, and then sends back other frequencies to make changes in the body.

Sound complicated? We thought so, too. But when we asked practitioners to explain it, they said it was too hard for anyone but the inventor to understand. We heard what practitioners promise the EPFX can do — and the claims are amazing. Not only can the device treat AIDS and Parkinson's, some tell us it has made cancer disappear. That's what Karen McBeth hoped when she bought an EPFX to treat her bone cancer. The Seattle woman shelled out almost $20,000 after being told the device would heal her. Sadly, it didn't, and McBeth died.

Bill Nelson — the inventor of the EPFX.

In North America, the EPFX is only licensed as a biofeedback device for stress reduction. Practitioners aren't allowed to claim it cures disease — because there's no scientific proof that it does.

But that doesn't stop practitioners from singing its praises.

So we travelled to Hungary, to talk to inventor Bill Nelson. When we met, he was dressed as his female alter-ego, Desire Dubounet. Nelson says he's part female. And he made some pretty outrageous claims.

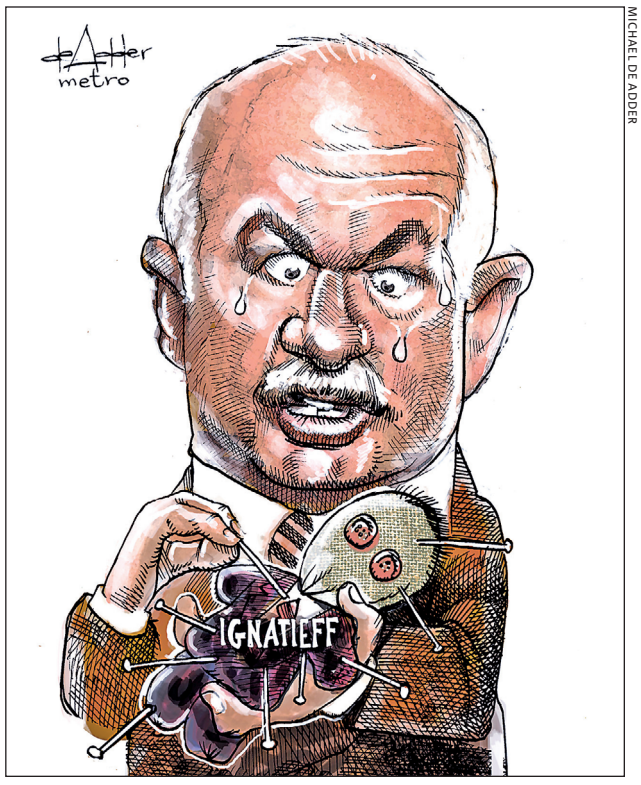
Nelson talked to us about a study he did on 7,000 cancer patients. After a few sessions on his medical device, he claimed that 2,000 people didn't have cancer anymore.

Hard to believe? It should be.

We asked for studies to back up claims about this miracle machine, but the inventor couldn't provide a single study that would stand up to scientific scrutiny.

And still, vulnerable people are buying in. And Health Canada is allowing the machine to be marketed to reduce stress — as a biofeedback device — so no one's clamping down on false claims, while sales continue to grow.

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. (9 p.m. NT) on CBC Television.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Quote of the Day

"Another Conservative budget rubber-stamped by another Liberal leader. It's official: Michael Ignatieff failed his first big test as Liberal leader."

— A televised NDP ad on Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Views

OC Transpo turns corner as strike ends, arbitration agreed to

UrbanCompass

Strike one bus strike.

It's over!

I was as sick of it as you were, and doubly sick of writing about it.

Honestly, given Metro's significant bus-board readership, I sometimes wondered if this was even being read.

In Toronto and Calgary, the Freethought Association of Canada plans to kick off the Canadian Atheist Bus campaign with ads on buses proclaiming, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life."

Here, local clergy gathered at city hall Monday to say, "There's still no Goddamned bus!"

I paraphrase, of course.

Indeed, three clutches of demonstrators froze their franchises off on Monday to rally for an end to this cruel, stupid, debilitating transit strike.

One marked characteristic of all three was the way in which participants largely stuck to the point: The city needs buses.

There was little attempt to identify the bad guy, to apportion the blame to the city or the union.

What a change from so much of the intemperate indoor punditry on the Internet or talk radio, where armchair screeds against unions or personal attacks on the mayor, composed in room temperature comfort, have grown commonplace.

The demonstrators gathered in assaultive cold weather to put both the city and the union on notice.

The result?

The next day, after a brief flirtation with actual talks, both sides bailed and returned to their bunkers, returning to their winning strategy of blaming each other for the impasse.

The union added some economic stimulus to the local media by joining the city's propaganda war, purchasing their own newspaper ads.

Bravo.

But then Labour Minister Rona Ambrose, who has bounced between my-hands-are-tied inaction, to forcing a union vote, and then back to inaction again, on Wednesday floated the possibility of back-to-work legislation, likely with an arbitrator stepping in to dictate the settlement of the union contract.

An emergency debate was called for Thursday night, but before it could even begin, peace broke out.

On Thursday evening, Mayor Larry O'Brien, Amalgamated Transit Union international vice-president Randy Graham and ATU 279 president Andre Cornellier told media they had tentatively agreed to send all outstanding issues to binding arbitration without any preconditions.

While the ATU said it couldn't say exactly when buses will return, officials said they were anxious to get service back on the street.

And although the agreement ends the strike, there is still no resolution to the contract dispute.

But more details on when bus service will return are expected after council meets Friday.

One has to wonder: Is this new development born of a desire to get the place looking a bit less pathetic for U.S. President Barack Obama's visit next month?

Either way, we'll take it.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Cloning getting cheaper all the time

A South Korean biotech firm has unveiled a new cloning technology using stem cells derived from fat tissue, which increases success rates. The firm also says it costs 50 per cent less than current methods, which cost upwards of $100,000 US. **REUTERS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

STUDY The Canadian Media Usage Trends Study found that in eight years, Internet usage will surpass television as the medium of choice among the key 25- to 34-year-old demographic. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

CONFIDENCE Business confidence deteriorated in the fourth quarter of 2008, and it will only get continue in 2009, The Conference Board of Canada said, noting its index fell 9.1 points to 68.9. **REUTERS**

RETIREMENT As retirement savings and pension plans devalue, 48 per cent of employed Canadians believe they will work beyond the usual retirement age of 65, according to Sun Life. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

CRITICISM U.S. President Barack Obama says it's "outrageous" Wall Street firms paid out $18.4 billion US in bonuses to employees, despite receiving billions in bailouts from the government. **REUTERS**

Tories fear U.S. protectionism

The Conservative government is concerned about protectionist pressures in the United States but is confident the U.S. administration will live up to its treaty obligations, the federal Industry minister said on TV yesterday.

Tony Clement, speaking on the CBC program, News: Morning, said the government is building a very strong relationship with the new U.S. administration and strengthening ties with the United States, Canada's biggest trading partner.

The U.S. Congress passed a new $819 billion US stimulus package Wednesday that included a clause that said funds made available in the act can be used only on projects in which all of the iron and steel for them are produced in the United States. The U.S. Senate has yet to vote on the package.

"You get manifestations of protectionist pressures, there's no doubt about that," Clement noted of U.S. Congress, but also added: "The United States has treaty obligations that they've signed onto, NAFTA is one, the World Trade Organization is another, and we expect the United States to live up to its treaty obligations of open and fair trade." **REUTERS**

PM talks tough

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper has asked Washington to withdraw the "Buy America" provision from the stimulus plan, suggesting it violates WTO rules.

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Bosh back to all-star game
Raptors forward Chris Bosh was named to his fourth straight NBA Eastern Conference all-star team Thursday night. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sens In St. Louis

TIM PARKER/REUTERS

St. Louis Blues forward B.J. Crombeen has his shot stopped by Ottawa Senators goalie Brian Elliott on Thursday night. For a complete game recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

Serena, Federer advance

Roger Federer moved one win away from a record-equalling 14th grand slam title on Thursday, blasting Andy Roddick off court as Melbourne sweltered through a once-in-a-century heatwave.

Cool and collected as all around him wilted, the Swiss maestro notched up his 16th victory over the American 6-2, 7-5, 7-5 to reach his 18th grand slam final and fourth one at the Australian Open.

Earlier Serena Williams also reached her fourth Australian Open final, slamming the brakes on Elena Dementieva's 15-match winning streak. She faces Dinara Safina in Saturday's final.

Federer set up Sunday's showdown against either top seed Rafa Nadal or Fernando Verdasco with a sublime performance under the stars.

Organizers opened the centre-court roof for the night session, having closed it during the day to fend off the sun which had been turning the arena into a cauldron.

Federer put on a masterclass of power and precision tennis to reach his 18th grand slam final — one short of Ivan Lendl's record.

REUTERS

Andy Roddick lost in straight sets to Roger Federer.

"Look, if I am completely honest, you dream of playing the big tournaments, your dream is to win Wimbledon and then if number one comes around its too good to be true. But to dominate to this extent ... I guess I am living the dream."

For Roddick it was simply a nightmare. "Let's not kid ourselves. You're down two sets to him and scraping, trying to survive. I hit the ball pretty well," he said.

"If you look at his stats for the match, both of us had pretty good stats. He just came up with shots when he needed to. That's what he does."

Williams was also in dreamland after sweeping aside Dementieva, although she was in no doubt that she could improve.

"A perfect match for me? Oh, no, no, no. But it was definitely better," the American second seed smiled after her 6-3, 6-4 win. REUTERS

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Sky patrol

The North American Aerospace Defence Command said Thursday it will enforce flight restrictions over Tampa during Sunday's game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Super Bowl XLIII

Prop it up this Super Sunday

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

At some point in the past decade or so, merely wagering on the outcomes of Super Bowl games themselves became insufficient and unsatisfactory for the general public — and so bookmakers introduced what we commonly refer to these days as prop bets.

The bookies — whether from Las Vegas, your local neighbourhood, online gambling services or even your favourite government lottery — began to lure extra revenue by giving bettors opportunities to lay down sheckels on props such as the number of passes a quarterback would complete in the Super Bowl or how many tackles a linebacker would record.

These were relatively sensible, understandable game-related matters.

Somewhere along the way, however, bookies decided it was prudent to appease degenerates who needed action on virtually anything and everything on Super Bowl Sundays, like the coin toss (heads or tails) or whether a specified kicker would score more points than a specified forward playing in an NHL match at the same time.

Well, prop bets have reached a new high (low?) for this Sunday's Super Bowl between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals. Consider these two props being offered by a handful of books:

A) An over/under (3.5) on how many times the television broadcast will cut to shots of Brenda Warner, wife of Cards QB Kurt Warner.

B) An over/under (nine) on how many times the broadcasters will refer to Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger as Big Ben.

Weird, eh? Just think: Folks involved in the broadcast (directors in the case of the Warner prop and announcers in the case of the Roethlisberger one) have complete control over these developments. What's to prevent them from advising their relatives to bet all they can on the overs, and then ensure they cut to Brenda four times or mention Big Ben 10 times?

And if you doubt this can happen, consider this: A recent survey revealed nobody is less trusted in this world than media types.

• Flakiest players in Sunday's game:

The kickers, hands down. Or, should I say, feet down?

"I don't know why," Steelers kicker Jeff Reed divulged, "but I bend down to change the sock on my kicking foot at the start of each quarter."

Cards kicker Neil Rackers, meanwhile, always eats pre-game meals consisting of spaghetti and precisely three meatballs, which to him represents the number of points he aims to produce on each of his field-goal attempts.

• Sunday may well be the final Arizona appearances for three key offensive players.

Warner, receiver Anquan Boldin and running back Edgerrin James will all be eligible for free agency.

James produced respectably near the end of this season but mostly flopped with the Cards, who'll likely pursue a younger, cheaper back. Boldin has said he won't re-sign because, in his view, management lied to him by not following through on a promise to grant him a new contract before the season. Warner thinks the Cards owe him $500,000 US from a 2007 incentive and he won't re-sign unless that's factored into a new deal.

All three would attract considerable attention on the free-agent market.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

GETTY IMAGES

Kurt Warner's wife Brenda, right, became a media attraction when he played for the Rams. You too can bet on how many times she's shown on TV Sunday.

Berger's finale?

• Sunday's Super Bowl could be Mitch Berger's NFL swan song. The Steelers punter, 36, is a B.C. native and has an off-season home in Arizona. After the NFL, he'd like to become a football reporter.

NFL Super Bowl XLIII

Pittsburgh's Hines Ward takes it 'day-by-day'

Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Hines Ward is in no rush to test his sprained right knee ahead of Sunday's Super Bowl clash against the Arizona Cardinals.

"Better day-by-day," Ward, the Super Bowl MVP three years ago when the Steelers beat the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL championship game, told reporters on Wednesday.

"I woke up and had treatment this morning. I'll go out and jog around a little bit and see where I am. I'm just going day-by-day now," added Ward, who has been sleeping in a hyperbaric chamber to accelerate his healing.

Ward brings inspiration to the Steelers, personifying for the offence his team's signature defensive ferocity by delivering crunching blocks and making courageous catches while absorbing big hits.

"I take great pride in going out and being as physical as our defence," said Ward, who hurt his knee in Pittsburgh's AFC title game victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

"I try to lead by setting an example for the other guys.

"If I'm not catching the football, I like to make my presence known elsewhere, so I tend to be more aggressive."

The 32-year-old Ward, four times a Pro Bowl receiver, was so aggressive blocking Cincinnati Bengals player Keith Rivers he broke the linebacker's jaw.

The modestly built receiver was also paid the compliment of being included in Pittsburgh's defensive highlights video.

"It's a very big honour to be on their prestigious highlight tape as far as hitting guys," he said.

"It's a big honour."

REUTERS

SUPER BOWL XLIII

Sunday

• Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, Florida
• 6 p.m., CTV
•Line: Steelers -7
• Announcers: Al Michaels/John Madden (NBC)
•U.S. national anthem: Jennifer Hudson
• Halftime show: Bruce Springsteen

Heading out?

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Ring-leader pleads not guilty

A Massachusetts man accused of being behind a jewelry heist involving stolen New York Giants Super Bowl rings was ordered held on $3-million US cash bail Thursday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Super Bowl XLIII

The top 10 Super Bowls of all time

JOHN CHICK
john.chick@metronews.ca

XXV
Jan. 27, 1991
Giants 20, Bills 19

Set against the backdrop of the first Gulf War, the high-powered no-huddle Buffalo Bills offence entered Super Bowl XXV having scored 95 points in two playoff games, and were 10-point favourites over the ball-control, grind-it-out New York Giants. In the only Super Bowl where neither team turned the ball over once, the Parcells-Belichick Giants defence held Buffalo's K-Gun offence in check and ate up the clock to the tune of 40:33 in time of possession.

Thurman Thomas's dramatic 31-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter gave the Bills a two-point lead, but after a 10-minute New York drive ended in a Matt Bahr field goal, the Bills desperately drove back downfield, setting up a Scott Norwood 47-yard game-winning field goal. Norwood missed wide right, with seven seconds on the clock.

XLII
Feb. 3, 2008
Giants 17, Patriots 14

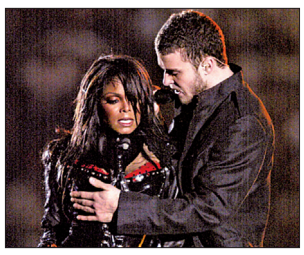
The New England Patriots arrived in Arizona for Super Bowl XLII 18-0, only the second undefeated regular-season team in NFL history. But the wild-card New York Giants came in riding a wave of momentum, and by the second quarter of the game it was clear that New York wasn't going to let the Patriots high-powered offence roll through them.

New England had a season-low seven points at halftime, leading only by four. In the fourth quarter, the Pats appeared to take control when Tom Brady hooked up with Randy Moss on a six-yard touchdown pass, but on the ensuing Giants drive Eli Manning escaped a sack and found David Tyree on 3rd and 5 with a near-miracle 32-yard first-down completion with 1:15 left.

The Giants then punched in the Super Bowl-winning score when Plaxico Burress caught a 13-yard TD pass from Manning.

XXXVIII
Feb. 1, 2004
Patriots 32, Panthers 29

In a game better known for Justin Timberlake's cheap feel on Janet Jackson, spun by the machine into a "wardrobe malfunction," the Patriots again found themselves involved in one of the greatest Super Bowls ever, this time against the Carolina Panthers. After an uneventful 45 minutes, the two teams combined for



868 total yards, and for 45 points in the fourth quarter alone. Carolina held a one-point lead with under seven minutes left, but after trading touchdowns in the last three minutes, a penalty on the Panthers kickoff would set up Adam Vinatieri's second last minute Super Bowl-winning field goal in three years.

XXXVI
Feb. 3, 2002
Patriots 20, Rams 17

The first big game post 9-11 pitted the Patriots against the heavily favoured St. Louis Rams and their "Greatest Show on Turf" offence. The plucky Pats and fledgling QB Tom Brady opened up a shocking 14-3 lead at halftime before Kurt Warner and the Rams offence responded in the fourth quarter, tying the game at 17 with 1:30 left in the game.

The Brady legend planted its seeds in the next minute and 23 seconds as he led New England downfield, setting up Adam Vinatieri's game-winning 48-yard field goal.

XXXIV
Jan. 30, 2000
Rams 23, Titans 16

The first Super Bowl of the new millennium was as boring as they come for most of the game, with the St. Louis Rams leading Tennessee 16-0 midway through the third. But after the Titans scored 16 unanswered points, St. Louis got it's record-setting offence going, with Kurt Warner throwing a 73-yard TD strike to Isaac Bruce with under seven minutes left. Scrambling to tie the game, Steve McNair and the Titans moved the ball downfield, and with six seconds left and no timeouts, McNair hit Kevin Dyson on a slant pass inside the Rams' 3. However, St. Louis linebacker Mike Jones was mirroring Dyson and immediately tackled him at the one-yard line as time expired.

97.5
• Million U.S. TV viewers who watched last year's Super Bowl, an all-time high.

XXXII
Jan. 25, 1998
Broncos 31, Packers 24

The Denver Broncos came into Super Bowl XXXII against the Green Bay Packers winless in four big-game visits. John Elway had been at the helm for three of them, losing by a combined score of 136-40. With this game tied at 17 in the third quarter, Elway took off on a third-down scramble, leaping for a first down as two Packer defenders hit him, helicoptering the 37-year old through the air. The play became the defining moment of Elway's career.

With the game tied again at 24-24 with 1:45 left in the game, Terrell Davis ran the ball in for his third touchdown of the day, as the Broncos finally took home a Lombardi trophy to the Rockies.

XXIII
Jan. 22, 1989
49ers 20, Bengals 16

Tied 6-6 in the third quarter, Cincinnati's Stanford Jennings returned a San Francisco kickoff for an electrifying 93-yard touchdown return. Joe Montana and Jerry Rice went to work, tying the game early in the fourth before a Bengals field goal put Cincinnati back in front 16-13. The greatest clutch player in professional football history took control with 3:10 remaining, as Montana drove the Niners 92 yards in 11 plays. In a huddle at the Cincinnati 10, Montana said to tackle Harris Barton, "Look, there's John Candy," pointing out the Canadian comic in the stands. Montana then promptly won the Super Bowl, hitting John Taylor for the game-winning score with 34 seconds remaining.

XIII
Jan. 21, 1979
Steelers 35, Cowboys 31

In the third quarter, Dallas' Hall of Fame tight end Jackie Smith dropped a short, wide open touchdown pass in the end zone. Franco Harris, Terry Bradshaw and Lynn Swann put the Steelers ahead 35-17 in the fourth, but Dallas didn't go quietly into the night. The Cowboys scored two touchdowns in the last three minutes, but Pittsburgh recovered an onside kick with 17 seconds left to seal the Steelers victory.

XXXIX
Feb. 7, 2005
Patriots 24, Eagles 21

The last of the Patriots three Super Bowl wins this decade, Tom Brady and company found themselves tied with the Philadelphia Eagles going into the fourth quarter. But after scoring a touchdown and kicking a field goal for a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, Donovan McNabb, Terrell Owens and the Eagles offence moved 79 yards in 13 plays to score and cut the lead to three inside two minutes. Rodney Harrison sealed New England's win when he picked off McNabb with 40 seconds left.

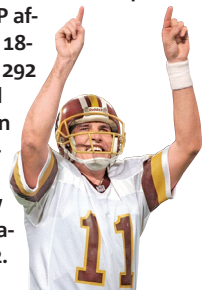
XXXI
Jan. 26, 1997
Packers 35, Patriots 21

The Mike Holmgren-Brett Favre Packers faced off against the Bill Parcells-Drew Bledsoe Patriots. After a high-scoring back-and-forth first half, New England cut the lead to six in the third quarter on a Curtis Martin TD scamper. On the ensuing kickoff however, former Heisman winner Desmond Howard ran the kick back 99 yards to put the game away for Green Bay.

Super Bowl Canadian content over the years

Mark Rypien

Born in Calgary and raised in Spokane, Wash., Rypien became the only Canadian-born player to win a Super Bowl MVP after going 18-for-33 for 292 yards and two TDs in Washington's 37-24 victory over Buffalo in 1992.



Jack Kent Cooke

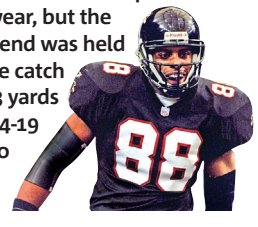
The Toronto businessman became a U.S. citizen by an act of Congress in 1960 and bought the Washington Redskins. Under his ownership, the Skins won three Super Bowl titles in four tries – one quarterbacked by Rypien, the other by former CFL star Joe Theismann.

Steve Christie

The soccer player-turned kicker from suburban Toronto joined the Bills in 1992, and played in two of Buffalo's four Super Bowl losses. In 1994, he kicked what still remains the longest field goal in Super Bowl history at 54 yards.

O.J. Santiago

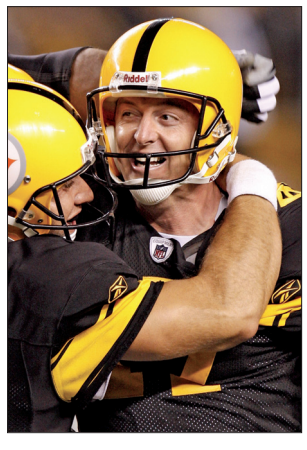
The product of Toronto sports power St. Mike's entered NFL lore in 1998 when he invented the "Dirty Bird," a fairly ugly dance routine performed after Atlanta touchdowns. The Falcons went to the Super Bowl that year, but the tight end was held to one catch for 13 yards in a 34-19 loss to Denver.



Nick Kaczur

The big tackle from Wayne Gretzky's hometown of Brantford, Ont., joined the Patriots in 2005 and became part of the vaunted offensive line in front of Tom Brady. He started at right tackle for New England in last year's Super Bowl loss to the Giants.

This year's CanCon



Steelers punter Mitch Berger of Kamloops, B.C.

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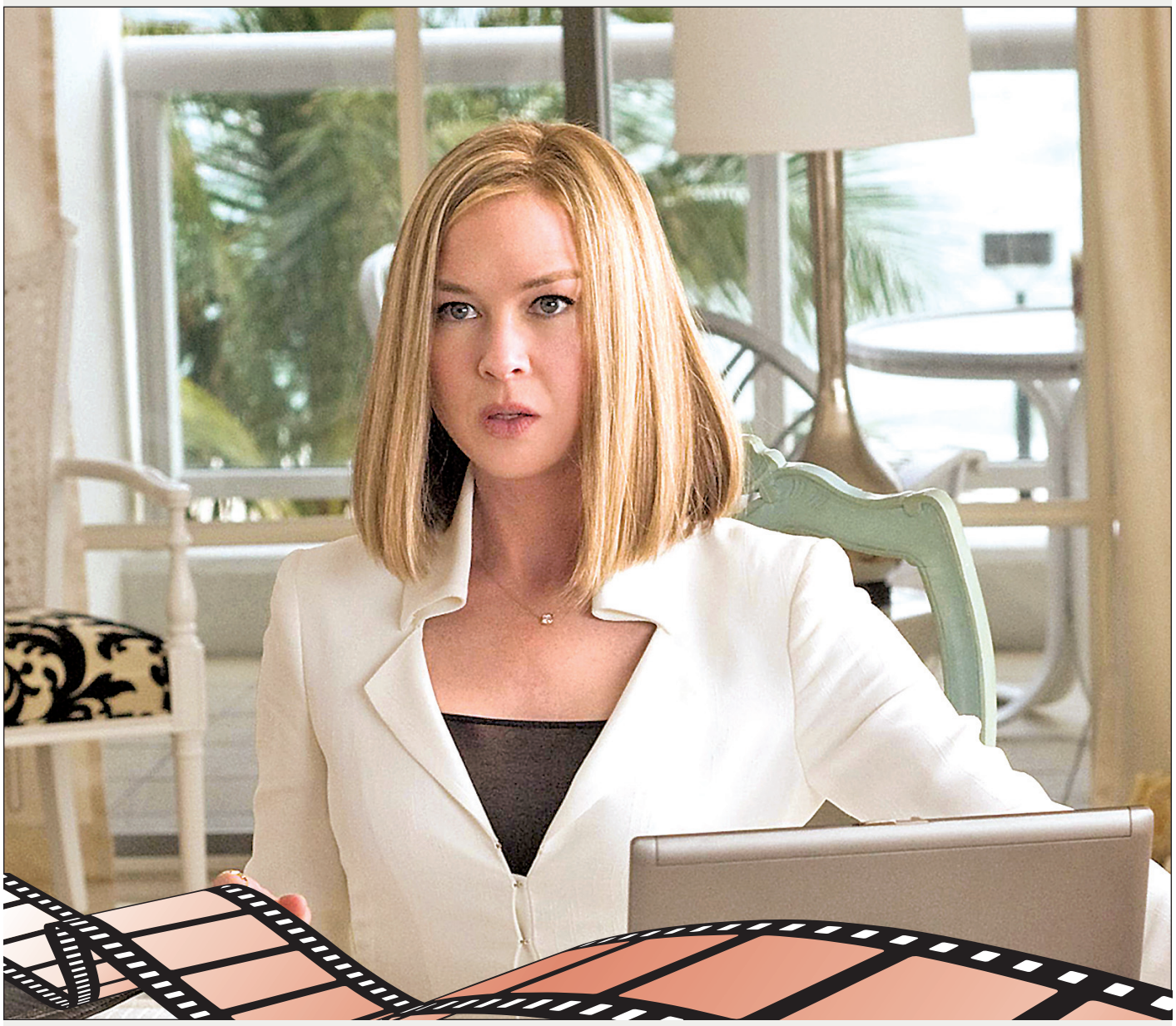
Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Love's leading lady Pg 14



Renee Zellweger plays an ambitious executive who temporarily relocates to wintery New Ulm, Minn., in New in Town, the latest romantic comedy outing for this female-favourite actress.

movies Pg 15

Preview of Star Trek shows sexier, edgier new vision.

music Pg 20

Franz Ferdinand explain the new techno/disco sound.

7th heaven Pg 24

Why does this sexy Spanish actress make our hot list?

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Dylan, Joplin on Watchmen soundtrack

The soundtrack for the film Watchmen will feature new music from My Chemical Romance along with Billie Holiday, Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan and others. It will hit store shelves on March 3. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Nothing new in Town

New in **Town**

Director: Jonas Elmer
Stars: Renée Zellweger, Harry Connick Jr.
Classification: PG
Rating: ½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Harry Connick Jr. plays a union boss and Renée Zellweger an ambitious executive who butt heads but end up falling for each other in the romantic comedy New in Town.

Maybe it's solely because she's so connected to the role of Bridget Jones but Renée Zellweger has become one of those elusive actresses that women love and men are completely indifferent about. You know, like Meg Ryan.

It's not that Zellweger's unattractive or that she can't act but in her romantic comedy New in Town, she's definitely struggling to breathe life into a rather repeated premise and some pretty drowsy dialogue.

Zellweger plays an ambitious executive who temporarily relocates to wintery New Ulm, Minn., in order to advance her career by overseeing the shutdown of a manufacturing plant.

There, she meets an array of faceless factory workers, tapioca-obsessed rubes and the plant's ruggedly handsome, but overly serious union boss (Harry Connick Jr.) who's determined to ensure workers don't lose their job. Can you guess whom she reluctantly takes an interest in?

The set-up of course is sound enough for a rom-com. You might even expect a myriad of delightful disagreements between the two opposing would-be lovers.

But you'd be wrong. Instead, New in Town overlooks the first rule of the rom-com: The two leads must hate each other unequivocally. Here, the pair's aversion turns to adoration with disappointing, unfunny and anticlimactic haste.

That said, at least Danish director Jonas Elmer knew his audience well enough to cast not only female fave Zellweger, but also Connick Jr. (who's actually not bad after a dreadful turn in 2007's P.S. I Love You).

However, while the pair may make this rom-com tolerable to some female filmgoers, New in Town will have most people breathlessly counting down the seconds to departure.

On the web

- For a New In Town trailer, and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.

Rom-com: Lights, camera, lock lips

InFocus

Richard Crouse
mrchaos33@hotmail.com

The trick to making a good rom-com is to make the journey ... interesting.

More than any other film genre romantic comedy suffers from a bad case of predictability. How many times have we seen two unlikely people beat the odds to become a happy couple by the time the credits roll? Dorky Harry meets beautiful Sally. Pretty Woman of the Night seduced by suave rich guy.

It's déjà vu all over again.

The trick to making a good rom-com is to make the journey — how the characters wind up locking lips at the film's end — interesting.

New In Town, the latest from Renée Zellweger does this by moving the action out of New York, where all great romantic comedies are set, to Minnesota.

This location twist is often used in the most common type of romantic comedy, the trademarked Drew Barrymore Romcom. On film Drew has fallen in love in Hawaii (50 First Dates), Boston (Fever Pitch) and everywhere in between.

The breakdown for a Barrymore romance fest is simple. Act One sees the quirky couple meet. Sparks fly. Act Two has the pair falling in love under unlikely circumstances. Things go great until an ugly confrontation leads to separation and general unhappiness. Act Three contains the Grand Gesture. He or she, depending on the movie, moves heaven and earth to win the other back. Insert happy ending.

That's the basic plot of all Drew's romantic opuses; only the faces and locations change. She's a sunny screen presence and often that is enough to carry these movies despite the robotic uniformity of their scripts.

Barrymore, of course, isn't to blame for the state of rom-coms. Neither is Kate or Reese. They're just mimicking an age old formula.

Trouble in Paradise, an Ernst Lubitsch classic from 1932 follows the structure and it could be argued that Shakespeare was the architect of the rom-com. In fact, the four-hundred-year-old Taming of the Shrew was later brought to the screen as the teenage romcom Ten Things I Hate About You.

So why, after half a millennium, do romantic comedies still thrill audiences? I think it's primal. Deep down we all love a happy ending — rom-coms must end well otherwise they'd be romantic tragedies, but that's a whole other article — and while real life relationships might not always work, it's assured that when Harry meets Sally, it will be forever. That kind of certainty, no matter how unreal, keeps us coming back for more.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Oscar ballots mailed out

AWARDS Will the Oscar go to Button or Milk, or will Slumdog be top dog next month?

Final Oscar ballots were mailed to some 5,800 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who will cast their votes for the best 2008 movie, actor, actress, director and 20 other categories, organizers said.

The ballots — still on paper despite the dominance of email and text messaging — are due back on Feb. 17, just ahead of the Feb. 22 Oscar ceremony in Hollywood where the movie industry's highest honors are handed out.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

They will be tabulated by accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, who have never seen a breach of security concerning the winners in their 75 years of handling the Oscar ballots.

REUTERS

Green Hornet still on: Rogen
Seth Rogen has denied The Green Hornet movie has been cancelled. The actor — who is set to play the titular superhero — has quashed claims Sony has dropped the project after director Kevin Smith pulled out. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Movies

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

New take on Trek

Sexier approach in franchise reboot

A scene from the upcoming Star Trek. The J.J. Abrams-directed film aims to draw in more fans by adding a more contemporary approach to the franchise's origin story.

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Movie **feature**

Paramount came to Toronto with roughly 30 minutes of completed footage from its summer blockbuster reboot of Star Trek last week. The preview reel opened with an intro from director J.J. Abrams (the absurdly rich creator of Alias and Lost) who openly admitted to not being a huge fan of the series.

The news isn't great for the obsessive trekkies whose encyclopedic knowledge of the franchise can be terrifyingly thorough and purist, but it won't necessarily be a problem for the moviegoing public at large.

From the footage screened, it seems that rather than creating a geek-centric origin story that all the die-hard fans have already written in the heads, Abrams is attempting a Casino Royale-style franchise reboot that will stay true to the established universe while also reinventing and expanding the possibilities of the series for more demanding contemporary audiences.

The sneak peak showed an updated Kirk with a far more developed sense of bad-assery than camp icon William Shatner ever brought to the role. This Kirk is a more active, arrogant, and ambitious character, unafraid to get his hands bloody.

This change in character seems to be representative of the new take on the franchise as a whole, which combines kinetic action storytelling with the classic Star Trek logic-driven allegorical sci-fi.

That said, there is still a concern that this younger, faster, sexier approach will breed a Dawson Creek In Space reboot that will lack the intellectual depth that has defined the series to this point.

While some of the actors do look like they were cast for their pretty headshots rather than acting abilities, the footage did showcase some eccentric character work from Simon Pegg that suggests some deeper three-dimensional characterizations this time around.

We won't know if Abrams' experiment works until the May release, but one thing is for sure: The scale and action of this film will be on a whole other level than previous Trek outings.

Abrams has come a long way since the limited but impressive action set pieces on Alias and based on the early footage, the action in his Star Trek alone will create new fans.

Whether or not that will come at the expense of alienating some members of the world's most devoted fanbase remains to be seen, but at least it looks like this probably won't be another Phantom Menace debacle.

Luna killer whale of a tale

Saving **Luna**
Director: Suzanne Chisholm, Michael Parfit
Classification: STC
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Despite the emergence of documentaries as a viable box-office force, nature docs have remained firmly on the cinematic sidelines. Saving Luna, an official selection at more than a dozen film festivals, makes the case that such films might have a place in the mainstream and almost succeeds, albeit, in spite of itself.

The film chronicles the plight of a lone Orca whale that appeared in the waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island in 2001. Luna's territorial like nature (very unwhale like) and constant need for attention endeared him to the nearby residents in Gold River.

But problems erupt after the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the advice of a handful of scientists decided to enforce long-standing laws regarding human interaction with whales.

Saving Luna was made by Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit; a pair of journalists who came to Gold River to write a small news story about Luna. The couple became enamoured with the Orca, and soon involved themselves in his stewardship.

Luna is a very charming whale, a fact that shines through the film's clunky and at times one-sided story telling, and makes this worthwhile viewing.

Also opening
Also hitting theatres this weekend in The Uninvited. For a review of the film, visit metronews.ca/movies this weekend. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Psychic sci-fi propels Push

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

When Push hits theatres next Friday, it won't just be the latest science fiction thriller to hit the multiplexes; it'll be a small glimpse into a shadowy world that conspiracists have professed to be true for decades.

To most, the notion that someone being able to psychically "push" thoughts and emotions into somebody else's mind may be far-fetched but to others — like director Paul McGuigan, it may not be so preposterous.

"I was on the Internet looking at remote viewing for instance," said the director during a recent phone interview.

"Remote viewing (is a notion that) you can have special powers that enable you to be outside a room, (but) you can tell what's inside the room.

"That's kind of crazy but there are people who are experts at this that have been used by government agencies for years and years."

Dakota Fanning, centre, on the set of Push. The young actor plays a teen who has the ability to self-induce visions of the future in the upcoming sci-fi thriller.

Push is definitely not shying away from that concept either. Featuring a wide array of abilities, this thriller focuses on a group of gifted young psychics on the run from a seedy government agency that's trying to wrangle them for experimental purposes. Although the premise of gifted clairvoyants and psychic bloodhounds are fascinating enough, McGuigan didn't get too wrapped up in the conspiracy.

"I always just thought of this as a sci-fi thriller — sort of a film noir in the sci-fi world and I kept it very much grounded there."

Movie feature

Perhaps the film's most intriguing character is 13-year-old Cassie Holmes, a "watcher" who has the ability to self-induce visions of the future. Played by Dakota Fanning (Charlotte's Web), Push also marks a noticeably darker shift in the talented child star's acting career.

"She basically reads (a script) and decides how she wants to play it," said McGuigan about his impressive leading lady. The director behind acclaimed films like Wicker Park and Lucky Number Slevin has even recently called Fanning the "best actor he's ever worked with."

"It's the poise; it is just knowing that life is not that complicated. We kind of gather the complications of life as we get older and she really hasn't done that," said McGuigan. "I can't imagine what she's going to be like in ten years time."

Neeson owns Taken

Taken

Director: Pierre Morel
Stars: Liam Neeson
Classification: 14A
Rating: ½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW A frenetic cross between the Bourne trilogy and Steven Soderbergh's underappreciated revenge flick The Limey, Taken is a bright light after a month full of mediocrity.

Directed by Pierre Morel (District 13) from a Luc Besson (The Transporter) script, Liam Neeson stars as Bryan Mills, a retired CIA agent who wants nothing more than to make up for lost time with his 17-year-old daughter Kim (played by Maggie Grace).

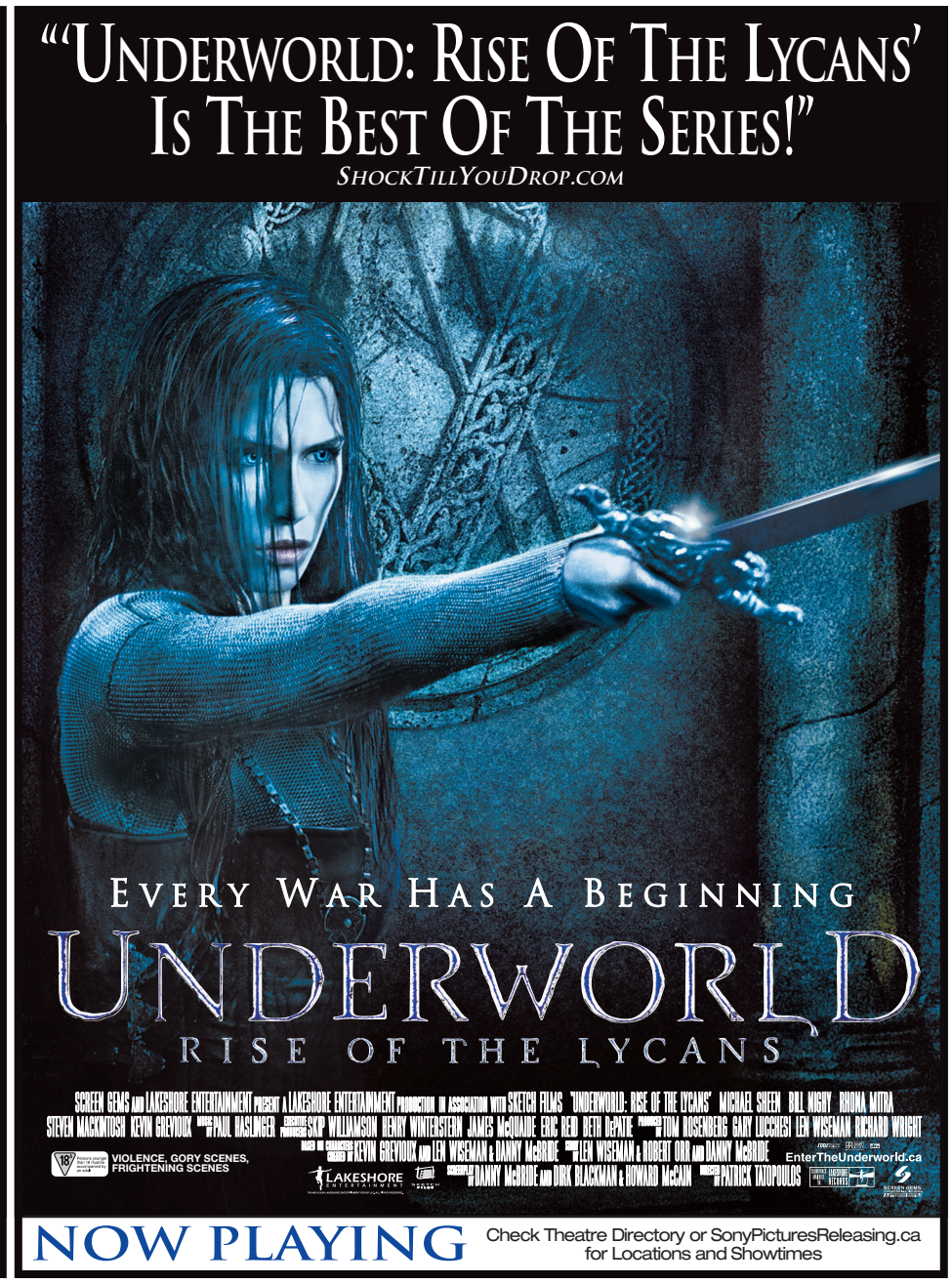
Now spoiled by her snotty mother and rich stepdad (she even gets a pony for her birthday!), Kim is leaving for Paris against Brian's overly concerned wishes.

As it turns out, he's right. Although it takes nearly a third of the film to get there, Kim and a friend arrive in Paris only to be carted off by Albanian sex traffickers while she's on the phone with daddy. This is where Taken kicks into overdrive.

"I will find you and I will kill you," Brian tells his daughter's faceless kidnapper before immediately jumping on a jet to begin breaking laws and banging heads in order to save his daughter.

Neeson is near perfect as the vengeful father who's not afraid to get blood on his hands. With unspoken ease, he exhibits a commanding presence and a surprising prowess with the punches — especially given that he's now in his fifties.

Taken should have no problem selling seats with its stunning fight choreography, compelling high-speed chases and guiltless attempts to please fans of the genre but in the end, Neeson's performance is the real reason Taken is worth taking in.



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Radcliffe stunt double injured on Harry Potter set

Daniel Radcliffe's stunt double has reportedly been hospitalized after an explosion on the Harry Potter set. The unnamed 25-year-old suffered horrific injuries after a flying sequence using a harness went wrong. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

In a Class of its own

The **Class**

Director: Laurent Cantet
Stars: Francois Begaudeau
Classification: STC
Rating:

KEVIN COURRIER
for Metro Canada

Most movies about idealistic teachers who inspire their charges, whether they're sappy (To Sir, With Love, Dead Poet's Society), brutal (Lean On Me), or decent (Freedom Writers), still become painfully predictable. They're rarely about real education and more about learning life lessons. People don't learn; they get ennobled. The Class is that rare exception, a riveting picture that examines the complex dynamic that develops between an inspired teacher and a motley group of students.

Francois Begaudeau portrays an inspired teacher in The Class.

The Class, based on a book by Francois Begaudeau, deals with a teacher in a multi-ethnic neighborhood in Paris, who attempts to teach a diverse group of students from various social classes and cultures. Director Laurent Cantet (Time Out, Heading South) loosely adapts the material into an entertaining, yet incisive, look at how the process of learning can be predicated by certain social and political realities. For instance, Wei, a Chinese teen, is one his best students. But his learning is affected by his self-effacing shyness and the tumult brought on by his mother (an illegal alien) facing deportation. Soulaymane (Franck Keita), from Mali, is a troubled and failing student who faces both expulsion and a father prepared to send him back to Africa.

Working with a group of unprofessional actors playing the students, plus Begaudeau portraying a version of himself, Cantet grapples with pertinent issues that grow out of classroom discussions – including everything from The Diary of Anne Frank to arguments about rival football teams.

While The Class doesn't idealize the students, it doesn't deify Francois either. When he attempts to confront the bad behaviour of two girls who are class representatives, he uses an insulting pejorative that has the opposite impact of what he intends.

In The Class, Cantet shows a probing intelligence that doesn't settle for easy answers, or pose obvious resolutions. Put simply, Francois and his students don't all reach a common end. The Class is clearly in a class of its own.

Canadian wants crack at Thor's hammer

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

FEATURE Forget Brad Pitt. Veto Viggo Mortensen. When it comes to who deserves the coveted role of beloved Marvel Comics icon The Mighty Thor, those pampered Hollywood fancy lads barely bang the hammer.

There is one man who thinks he is truly fit to wear the tights of the pulpified Norse God of Thunder — and that's Canadian actor James Preston Rogers.

Standing over six-foot-five with tree trunk biceps and long blond hair, Rogers (a former bouncer and WWE wrestler) wound his way into a life before the lens three years ago.

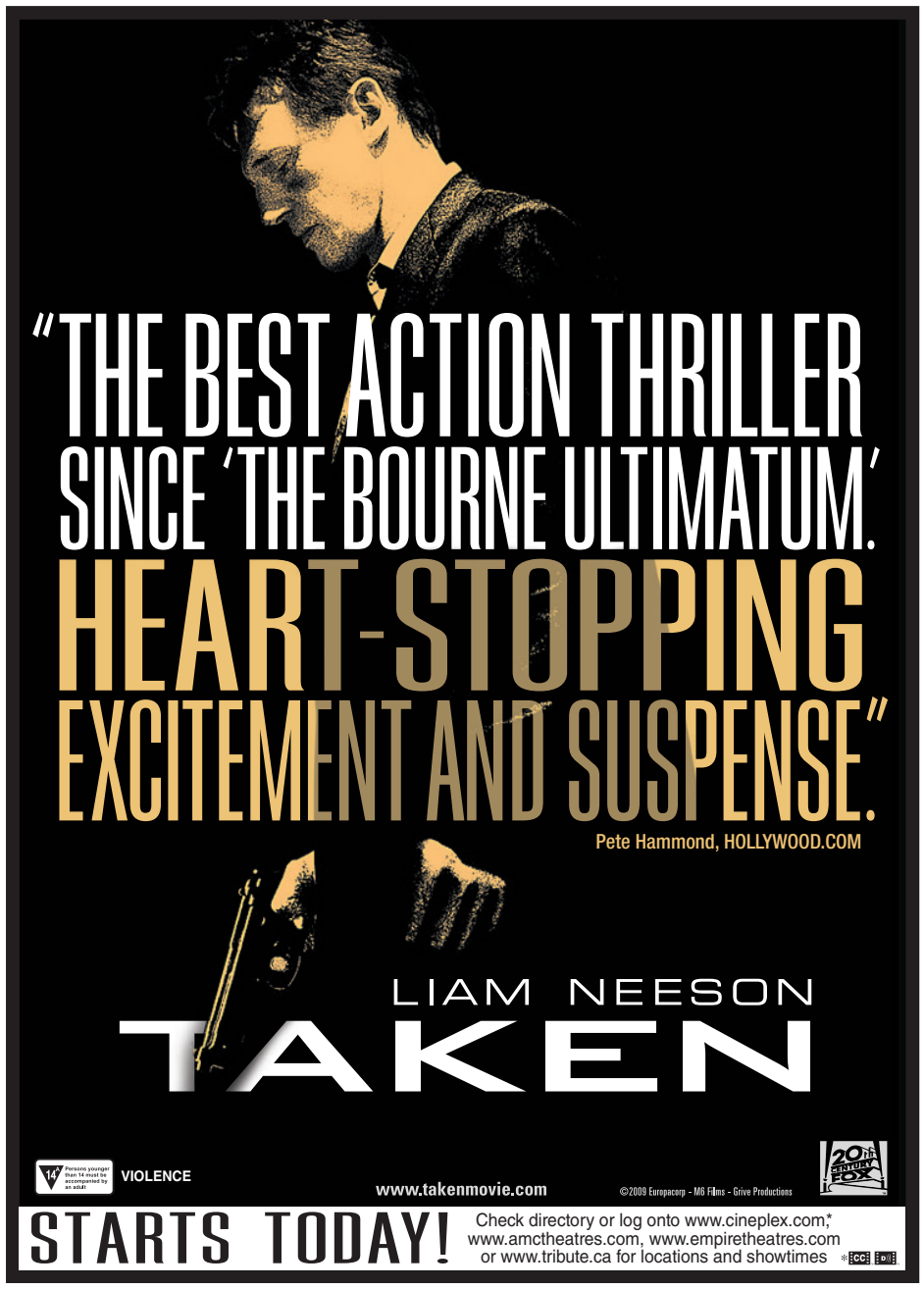
Since then he has been slowly making a name for himself in many high-profile pictures including a part in the vikings vs. aliens cross-genre meltdown Outlander.

But it's his very public campaign to assume the role of Thor in director Kenneth Branagh's upcoming — and uncast — adaptation that has seen him winning the hearts of counter-culture fans worldwide.

"Every day, this thing gathers more steam," said Rogers last week during a meet and greet at the Toronto Film College. "I just keep getting tons of e-mails, calls and media support. It's been pretty surreal."

When plans to launch a big screen version of the celebrated comic surfaced late last year, Rogers hit the Internet, directing fans to his IMDb page and starting a petition to plead with the powers that be at Marvel to cast him as Thor.

"For years people have said I look like Thor," says the physically intimidating, but soft-spoken, actor. "I saw this as my chance to show people what I can do."



Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 30 TO THURS., FEB 5. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Entre les murs (PG) Fri 6:35 Sat 2-9:05 Sun 3:50 Mon-Tue 6:35 Wed 9:05 Thu 4:15-9:05
Labyrinth (STC) Mon 9:15 Tue 4:20
Saving Luna (STC) Fri 9:15 Sat 4:40 Sun 6:30 Mon 4:30 Tue 9:15 Wed 5-7 Thu 7
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 4:25 Sat 6:45 Sun 1:30-8:35

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

Best of Ottawa International Animation Festival 2008 (STC) Sat 7
Salam Iran, une lettre persanne (STC) Sat 9
Le Temps des Barbares (STC) Sun 7

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

Planet Earth: Jungles (STC) Fri 3 Sat-Sun 11:30-1:30-3:30 Fri 4 Sat-Sun 12:30

CENTRETOWN MOVIES
Dundonald Park, 512 Somerset St. W., 613-232-1534, centretownmovies.org

Listings not available at press time.

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20-9:40
Caesar and Cleopatra (STC) Sat 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:30-8:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Thu 9:10
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 1:10-4:7-9:55 Sat 4-7-9:55 Sun 1:10-4-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:20
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:30 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30
New In Town (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Notorious (18A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:35-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:35-10:25
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3-5:20-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:40-10:05
Taken (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-7:30-10
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri 2-4:50-7:50-10:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:50-10:20
The Uninvited (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:40-8-10:15
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:30 Sat 4:05-6:50-9:30 Sun 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:50-9:30

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:40
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Sat 4:20-7:05-9:50 Sun 12:30-4:20-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:05-9:50
Milk (14A) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
New In Town (PG) Fri 4:30-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:30-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30-10
Opus Arte: La Fille Mal Gardée (Ballet) (STC) Sat 1
The Reader (14A) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:35
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:55
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 4-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Sun 5
Hard Target (STC) Wed 9:10
JCVD (14A) Wed-Thu 7
Taxi to the Dark Side (18A) Sun-Tue 9:40
Tell No One (14A) Sun-Tue 7
Timecop (STC) Thu 9:10
West Side Story (STC) Sun 2

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218 familycinema.ca

Morning Light (PG) Sat 2
Passchendaele (14A) Fri 7

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 7:35
Bolt (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-12:40-2:50-5:10
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 10:20-12:30-2:30-4:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 10-5-9:35
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Thu 10:40-5:20-9:40
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30-9
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:20-2:20-4:30
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-7:10
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Wed 1-3:10-7:30 Thu 3:10-7:30 Thu 1

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Inkheart (PG) Fri 4-6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:30-9:10 Mon 4-6:30-9:10 Tue-Thu 4
Taken (14A) Dolby Stereo Fri 4:10-6:40-9 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 1:45-4:10-6:40-9 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 4:10-6:40-9
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) SDDS Digital Fri 4:20-6:50-9:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 2-4:20-6:50-9:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:20

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15-12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 12-4-8
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:55-3:40-6:30-9:20
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 10:20-1:15-3:45-6:55-9:25
Last Chance Harvey (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05
Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25-1:25-4:05-7:15
Milk (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:40
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:25-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:30-4:20-7:10-10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 10-1:20-4:25-7:15-10:05
Taken (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 10:35-1:35-4:10-7:20-9:45
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri 10:05-1:05-3:50-7-9:55 Sat-Thu 10:05-1:05-3:50-7-9:55
The Uninvited (14A) Fri-Thu 10:40-1-3:20-7:05-9:30

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 12-3-8 Sat 12-3-8-10 Sun 12-3-6 Tue 12-3-8 Wed 12-3 Thu 12-3-8
Grand Canyon: Fleuve en Peril (STC) Fri 4-10 Sat 1 Sun 4 Tue 4 Wed 1-8 Thu 1
Momies: Secret des Pharaons (STC) Fri 1-9 Sat 10-4 Sun 10-1 Tue 1-7 Wed 4-9 Thu 4
Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri 11-2-5-7 Sat 11-2-5-7-9 Sun 11-2-5 Tue 11-2-5-9 Wed 11-2-7 Thu 11-2-5-7-9

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Eldorado (STC) Tue 1-3:30 Wed-Thu 7
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon 7 Tue 7-9:20 Wed-Thu 9:30
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-2:40-6:40-8:40 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-2:40-6:40-8:40 Wed-Thu 6:40-8:40
Taken (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3-6:50-9 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3-6:50-9 Wed-Thu 6:50-9
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:10-7:10-9:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:10-7:10-9:10 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:10

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Babine (STC) Fri-Sun 12-1:55-7:25 Mon-Thu 1:40-3:35-5:30-7:25
Le conte de Despereaux (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:40-3:20-7:05 Mon-Thu 12-2:05-5:45
Doute (G) Fri-Sun 3:50-7:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-3:35-7:10-9
Le Jour où la terre s'arrêta (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-3:35-7-8:45
Monsieur Oui (G) Fri-Sun 12-5:40 Mon-Thu 12-5:20-9:20
Sept vies (G) Fri-Sun 5:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 12-9:25
Valkyrie v.f. (G) Fri-Sun 5-8:45 Mon-Thu 3:40-9:20
Volt (G) Fri-Sun 12-2-3:40-5:20 Mon-Thu 12-5:20

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Coeur d'encre (G) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:40 Mon 6:40 Tue 1-3:45-6:40 Wed-Thu 6:40
La guerre des mariées (G) Fri 7:05-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-7:05-9:20 Mon 7:05-9:20 Tue 1:20-3:50-7:05-9:20 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:20
Les intrus (13+) Fri 7:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:30-7:30-9:40 Mon 7:30-9:40 Tue 1:30-3:30-7:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:30-9:40
L'enlevement (13+) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:20-9:35 No Passes Mon 7:20-9:35 No Passes Tue 1:10-3:40-7:20-9:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:20-9:35
Le Lutteur (13+) Fri-Thu 9:10
Monde Infernal: La révolte des Lycans (13+) No Passes Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:05-7:15-9:30 Mon 7:15-9:30 Tue 12:40-3:05-7:15-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:30
Les Noces rebelles (13+) Fri 6:30-9:05 Sat-Sun 12-2:45-6:30-9:05 Mon 6:30-9:05 Tue 12-2:45-6:30-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:05
Paul Blart: Flic du mail (STC) Fri 6:50-8:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-6:50-8:50 Mon 6:50-8:50 Tue 12:15-3-6:50-8:50 Wed-Thu 6:50-8:50
Le pouilleux millionaire (STC) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:25-7-9:25 Mon 7-9:25 Tue 12:50-3:25-7-9:25 Wed-Thu 7-9:25
Twilight: la fascination (G) Fri 6:20-9 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:20-9 Mon 6:20-9 Tue 12:30-3:15-6:20-9 Wed-Thu 6:20-9

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (G) Fri-Thu 2-5:30-9
Defiance (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:25
Entre les murs (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:30-9:15
Gran Torino (13+) Fri-Thu 3:10-6:40-9:35
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:55-6:10
Inkheart (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-6:45
L'étrange histoire de Benjamin Button (G) Fri-Thu 8:30
Madagascar 2 : La grande évasion (G) Fri-Thu 12:50
My Bloody Valentine 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-9:50
New In Town (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:15-9:30
Palace pour chiens (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:35-6:50-9:05
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-6:55-9:10
The Reader (13+) Fri-Thu 9:15
Revolutionary Road (13+) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-7-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:50-9:45
Taken (13+) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:40-5:05-7:20-9:40
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (13+) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:05-9:45
The Uninvited (13+) Fri-Thu 12:40-2:50-5-7:10-9:25
The Wrestler (13+) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:35

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Caesar and Cleopatra (STC) Sat 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:40-8:30 Mon-Thu 5-8:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:20-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 6-9
Taken (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4-7-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 12:25
Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:30-9
Caesar and Cleopatra (STC) Sat 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-5:10-8:45
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-6:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 1-4:30-8
Defiance (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:25-9:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 1:15-4:15-7:10-10 Sat 4:15-7:10-10 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:25-4:40-7-9:20
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:10 Mon 12:40-3:40-9:10 Tue-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:10
My Bloody Valentine 3D (18A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:25-7:35-10:15 Wed 1:25-4:25-10:15 Thu 1:25-4:25-7:35-10:15
New In Town (PG) Fri-Tue 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:15 Wed 4:10-6:45-9:15 Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:15-6:20-9:05 Wed 12:50-3:15-9:05 Thu 12:50-3:15-6:20-9:05
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Tue 1-4-6:50-9:35 Wed 4-6:50-9:35 Thu 1-4-6:50-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-7:20-10:20
Taken (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-7:05-9:40
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri 12:35-3:35-7:25-9:55 Sat-Thu 12:35-3:35-7:25-9:55
The Uninvited (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5:7:40-10:05
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 3-6:35-9:50 Mon 3-9:50 Tue-Thu 3-6:35-9:50

ORLEANS

ORLEANS TOWN CENTRE 6 CINEMAS
250 Centrum Blvd., 613-834-0666

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 8:45 Mon-Thu 7:50
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 6:30 Sat 1:10-3:40-6:30 Sun 1:10-6:30 Mon-Thu 5:30
Palace pour chiens (G) Sun 3:40
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 7:10-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:30
The Reader (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10
Taken (14A) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 6-8:15
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri 6:50-9 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9 Mon-Thu 5:50-8
The Uninvited (14A) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:20-8:20

KANATA

KANATA 24
801 Earl Gray Dr., 613-599-1200

Bedtime Stories (G) SDDS Digital Fri 2:45 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 12:05-2:45 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:45
Bride Wars (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 SDDS Digital Thu 2:40-4:55-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:35-6:05-9:40 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:05-2:35-6:05-9:40 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:35-6:05-9:40
Defiance (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 12:55-4:7:05-10:05 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4-7:05-10:05
Doubt (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 2:25-7:50
Frost/Nixon (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1:45-4:35-7:45-10:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11-1:45-4:35-7:45-10:30 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:35-7:45
Gran Torino (14A) SDDS Digital Fri 1:45-4:25-7:25-10:15 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11-1:45-4:25-7:25-10:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:15
Hotel for Dogs (G) SDDS Digital Fri 1:50-4:15-7:05-9:30 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:25-1:50-4:15-7:05-9:30 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:30
Inkheart (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 1:55-4:30-7:05-9:40 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:30-7:05-9:40
Last Chance Harvey (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 4:35-10 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 11:25-4:35-10 Dolby Stereo Mon-Wed 4:35-10 Dolby Stereo Thu 4:35
Marley & Me (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1:50-7:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 7:15
Milk (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1:30-7:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 7:20
New In Town (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2:30-5-7:25-9:45 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:55-2:30-5-7:25-9:45 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:30-5-7:25-9:45
Notorious (18A) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 4:25-10:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05
The Reader (14A) Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Fri 1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20 Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:05-1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20 Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:20
Revolutionary Road (14A) Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:45 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2-4:50-7:40-10:25 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:10-2-4:50-7:40-10:25 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2-4:50-7:40
Taken (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 12:30-2:30-3-4:50-5:20-7:10-7:40-9:25-9:55 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:45-12:15-2:30-3-4:50-5:20-7:10-7:40-9:25-9:55 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:30-3-4:50-5:20-7:10-7:40-9:25-9:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 2
Twilight (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 5-10:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:30-5-10:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 5-10:20
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 12:30-2:15-3-4:45-5:30-7:15-8-9:35-10:20 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:45-12:30-2:15-3-4:45-5:30-7:15-8-9:35-10:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 2:15-3-4:45-5:30-7:15-8-9:35-10:20 SDDS Digital Thu 2:15-3-4:45-5:30-8-10:20
The Uninvited (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 12:35-2:15-2:45-4:30-5:05-7-7:35-9:15-9:50 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:35-12:05-2:15-2:45-4:30-5:05-7-7:35-9:15-9:50 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Wed 2:15-2:45-4:30-5:05-7-7:35-9:15-9:50 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Thu 2:15-2:45-4:30-5:05-7:35-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 4:45-7:30-10:15 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:15-4:45-7:30-10:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:45-7:30-10:15
The Wrestler (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2:10-4:45-7:20-10:10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:30-2:10-4:45-7:20-10:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:20-10:10
Yes Man (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 5:15-7:45-10:15

The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca
1. Working On A Dream, Bruce Springsteen, left; **2.** Fleet Foxes, Fleet Foxes; **3.** Tonight, Franz Ferdinand; **4.** Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, Various Artists; **5.** Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artists. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Take Me Out, again

Franz Ferdinand shake things up on third album

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Since 2004, Glasgow foursome Franz Ferdinand have been hammering out disco-infused indie rock. Not only did they become one of the biggest bands in the world with their massive hit Take Me Out, but they started a new wave revolution, with acts like Maximo Park and Bloc Party following in their footsteps.

But success isn't an antidote for boredom, so on Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, the group's third full-length, the band decided to shake things up.

"You've got to push yourselves to try new things," says Alex Kapranos, the band's lead singer. "If we kept on doing what we have been for the rest of our lives, it would have been boring. We're keeping things exciting for ourselves and the people listening to it."

While not every track is a major departure — No You Girls might be the band's most infectious dance rocker to date — other songs are nearly unrecognizable. Lucid Dreams, for one, is an eight-minute keyboard driven electro anthem.

"That track was cut down from a 40-minute session," says Kapranos. "That song has quite a different dynamic to it — it's much more dance floor. We'd been listening to a lot of mixes, where you build in a slow gradual way and bring the listener up. We're using different techniques than verse, chorus, verse."

It's easy for a band to try new things, but what happens if their fans hate it? Like every musician, Kapranos says he says he writes for himself, not to sell records, but he did make sure to play his new songs live before releasing them.

"If we kept on doing what we have been for the rest of our lives it would have been boring. We're keeping things exciting for ourselves and the people listening to it." Alex Kapranos

"Part of developing a new sound is playing it to the fans," he explains. "We played a bunch of smaller shows in Glasgow and the States. Doing that helps you know what's working or what's not. You can try out the most crazy experimental ideas and sometimes it works."

Still, some fans may be curious as to what Kapranos was referring to, when in the band's new bio, he says that the disc is an album "to fling yourself around your room as you psyche yourself for an evening of hedonism."

Don't worry, Tonight is not an all out techno record, but it does take their disco-friendly tunes to new, ass-shaking heights. That's thanks to their copious use of synths. "We wanted to go with a dance floor feel," says Franz's frontman. "There were a lot of keyboards around the studio and we wanted to use them.

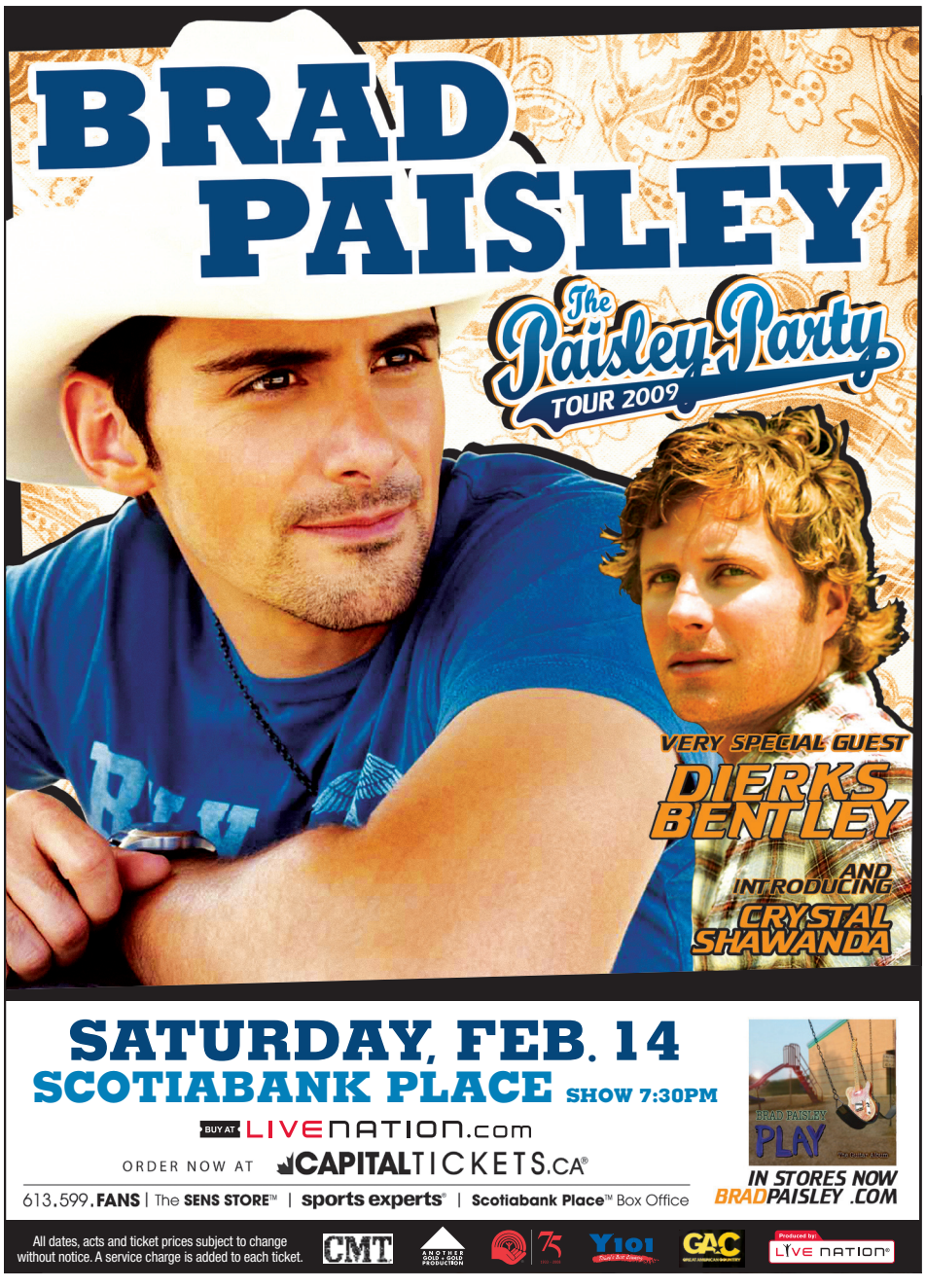
"But we've always been interested in this kind of music," he adds. "Whether it's the heavy kick drum on Take Me Out, we've always tried to harness this in a different way. This time the bass is really the heart of the record."

But it wasn't just a love of dance music that drove the band to beef up their club-ready sounds. They felt like they needed to rebel.

"When we first got together we were rebelling against the sounds that were around us. We didn't feel indie guitar music had the dance floor feel, and the dance floor didn't have the sounds of indie rock. But with any band who tries something new it become absorbed and part of the surroundings," Kapranos explains. "So with this, we're rebelling against the appropriation of ourselves."

SONY MUSIC PHOTO

Tonight, Franz Ferdinand's new album, was released this week.



Vedder and the new America

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

Here are two things I never expected to hear: (1) "As your financial adviser, I won't be charging you any management fees this year because your portfolio went down and I blame myself." And (2) "I have Eddie Vedder on the phone for you."

I'm still paying management fees on my RRSP. Eddie, on the other hand, was, in fact, on the phone from somewhere in Seattle. And despite his well-documented, er, reserve, the Pearl Jam frontman sounded, well, rather verklempt — in a good way. So how is he doing, following the inaugural of U.S. President Barack Obama?

"I'm OK. I'm beyond OK. I'm great. I'm so overwhelmed and overcome with emotion. We have new a president as of a couple of hours ago and I've got all my nerves right on the surface here. I feel incredible, I feel relieved, I feel exhausted."

So what kind of hopes and predictions does he now have, I ask.

"Two years ago, you were wondering what could there possibly be to unite our country and get us out of this mess. What can get us back on the positive? What can bring us back into some kind of standing with the international community? And it seemed like that there would not be any answer. Who knew we would get to this moment?"

Maybe Barack Obama's greatest contribution is simply going to be the reignition of hope, he suggests.

"So now it's up to us to keep that candle, turn that into a flame and keep it burning. And to protect and serve him and serve our nation now that the electorate has been invigorated."

We had our own federal election in October and the turnout and interest was low. However, hundreds of Canadians travelled to Washington to take part in American history.

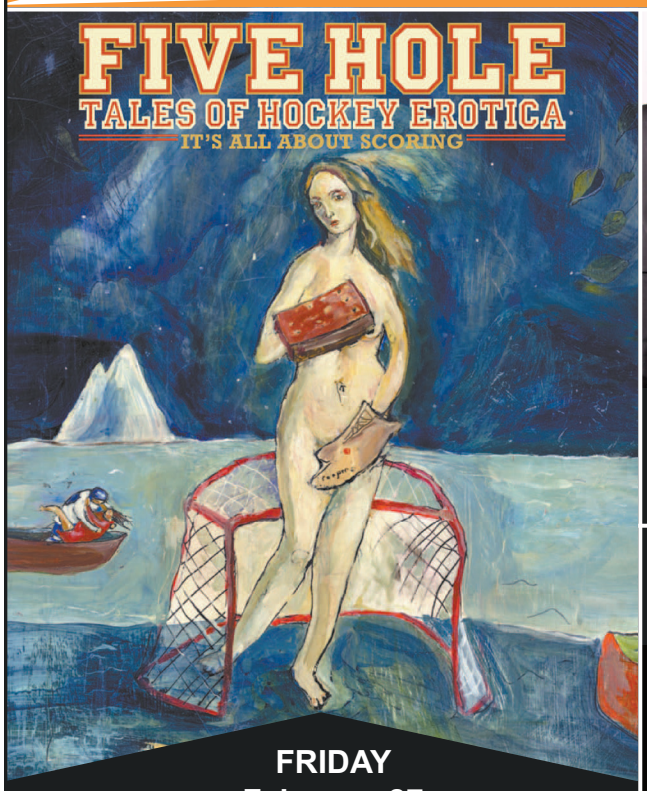
"Wow. Well, you know, we are connected — more than just geographically. Our cultures are very similar and when one goes down, the other is going to follow in certain ways."

Eddie and I talked about everything from the upcoming reissue of Pearl Jam's Ten album (due March 24) to any lingering bad feelings towards Ticketmaster.

But here was my big question: How did Eddie come to cover a Canadian song for the Into the Wild soundtrack? The answer next week.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

front centre+



FRIDAY
February 27

FIVE HOLE
TALES OF HOCKEY EROTICA

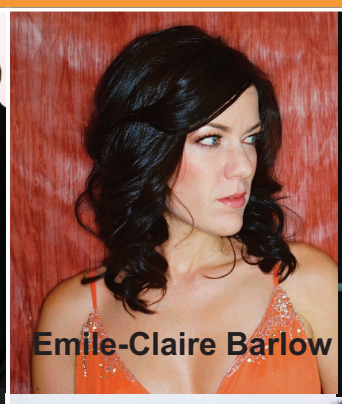
(Performed by One Yellow Rabbit + The Rheostatics)

SATURDAY
January 31

CHERRY POPPIN' DADDIES

MONDAY + TUESDAY
February 16 + 17

SWEENEY TODD
The Demon Barber of Fleet Street


Emile-Claire Barlow

Carol Welsman

DK Imomeka

FRIDAY
February 27

JAZZ NIGHT
E-C BARLOW
DK IBOMEKA
C. WELSMAN

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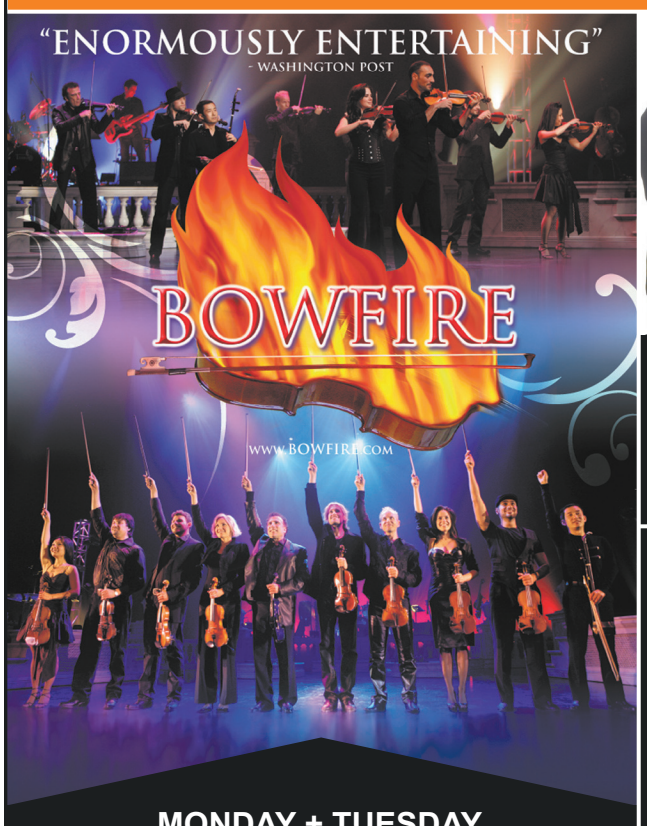

MONDAY + TUESDAY
March 16 + 17

BOWFIRE

THURSDAY
February 19
THE

CANADIAN TENORS

SATURDAY
March 21
OFFICIAL

BLUES BROTHERS REVIVAL

WEDNESDAY
March 18 + 19

JOHNNY REID

Upcoming Shows

Tuesday February 24
Classic Albums Live
Bob Marley "Legend"

Wednesday April 8
Classic Albums Live
Pink Floyd "Dark Side of The Moon"

Saturday April 18
Blues Night:
C. A'Court, T. Lavasseur, C. Del Junco

Monday May 4
Bill Anderson

Saturday May 9
Rik Emmet Plays Clapton

Thursday May 14
Oliver Jones + Ranee Lee

Saturday May 30
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THÉÂTRE CENTREPOINTE THEATRE

The top pop albums, according to Billboard Magazine

1. Fearless, Taylor Swift; **2.** I AM...SASHA FIERCE, Beyoncé; **3.** Dark Horse, Nickelback; **4.** 808s and Heartbreak, Kanye West; **5.** Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artists. **REUTERS**

Music

Metro recommends

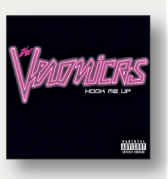
• BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, WORKING ON A DREAM:

The Boss diversifies his sound by incorporating a wide range of influences while staying true to his roots.

• LATE OF THE PIER, FANTASY BLACK CHANNEL:

Lively Britpop act blends '80s techno, new wave and rock with reckless abandon for some danceable madcap fun.

• THE VERONICAS, HOOK ME UP:



Sassy sisters deliver energetic electro-pop tunes that are sleek enough for playlists that include names like Britney and Pink.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica Lalonde mines the past

Jazz artist goes old school on new disc

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Jessica Lalonde is all about the old school.

And she means really old school. The Midland, Ont.-born and Toronto-based songstress is set to release her debut album Spinning Daydreams, a jazz-styled collection of crooning and swinging covers from the big-band era of 1930s and '40s.

It's a genus close to the heart of the musical theatre vet and student of Italian opera program Centro Studi Lirica, who cites as inspiration female crooners of yesteryear such as Billie Holiday, Judy Garland, Edith Piaf and Nina Simone. It's also a far cry from her family's tastes in music. Her parents are avid classic rock fans, and brother Luke Lalonde fronts indie rock movers and shakers Born Ruffians.

There's a terror to performing at first because you've got this crowd hundreds of people deep in front of you, but I think you need that in a way to put on a good show."
Jessica Lalonde

"If you believe in reincarnation, part of me almost thinks I lived during that time," Lalonde laughs. "I spent a lot of time with my grandparents when I was little and that was their style of music. They would put on Tommy Dorsey and Vera Lynn. And there was just something about it that hit home. It always stuck with me."

Produced by Canadian jazz aristocrat Bill King, the disc is a kind of introduction for old and new fans of the genre. Spinning Daydreams has a healthy mix of ballads and boppers, among them Cole Porter's Begin The Beguine from the 1935 musical Jubilee and Rogers and Hammerstein's Academy Award-winning 1945 hit It Might As Well Be Spring.

The collection, Lalonde says, was meant to invite new fans and inspire nostalgia. (The cover features a sepia-toned photo of her brandishing an old-fashioned microphone.)

"I picked a lot of my favourites, things I loved," she said. "If it was up to me I'd be doing a lot of ballads, but you can't do that on an album, you've got to have a balance. So I got some input from Bill who gave me other ideas."

The seasoned singer now faces uncharted waters: She frets over Spinning Daydreams' success, hoping her song choices will resonate with listeners as much as they have with her. But she continues to get her biggest thrill from winning over a crowd.

"Success to me is getting the opportunity to sing more," she said. "There's a terror to performing at first because you've got this crowd hundreds of people deep in front of you, but I think you need that in a way to put on a good show. And I guess there's a power to it, too. Everyone's watching you, and you bring out emotions in people with your song."

Spinning Daydreams is the new album from Jessica Lalonde.

In brief

MUSIC British singer-songwriter John Martyn, who played alongside Phil Collins and Pink Floyd's David Gilmour, has died aged 60, his publicist said Thursday. The jazz and folk-influenced musician was known for his virtuoso guitar playing and drawling vocals. **REUTERS**

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TOP 10
MOBILE DOWNLOADS

1 Poker Face — Lady Gaga
2 Live Your Life — T.I. ft. Rihanna
3 Heartless — Kanye West
4 Sex On Fire — Kings Of Leon
5 Beautiful — Akon
6 Single Ladies — Beyoncé
7 Love Story — Taylor Swift
8 Hot N Cold — Katy Perry
9 Rock N' Roll Train — AC/DC
10 Circus — Britney Spears

rogers.com/musicstore
ROGERS

No Super Bowl party for Hef

Hugh Hefner's Playboy magazine has cancelled its annual Super Bowl pre-game extravaganza, a party it has been throwing before the big game for nine years, according to Bloomberg News. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Television

Super Bowl still the big ticket for TV

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

AD SPACE: The Super Bowl is one of the remaining real events on TV, something that has to be experienced in real time, preferably not alone. While primetime viewership erodes, an astounding 97 million U.S. viewers tuned into last year's game, and NBC is counting on similar numbers for not just Sunday's game, but the pre-game and half-time shows — and the commercials.

Super Bowl ad spots are premium products, and at least since Apple's epochal 1984 ad launching the Macintosh computer with director Ridley Scott's movie-quality visuals, Super Bowl commercials have been events. And for the most part, Canadians can't see them.

Sim-subbing is the industry term for the preemption of the U.S. broadcast signal with the local one by cable and satellite providers, and it ensures that Canadian viewers will only see the ads that CTV, the Super Bowl's local broadcaster, has been paid to air. It's standard industry practice, in effect whenever the same show airs simultaneously on both sides of the border, but there are some who say that it diminishes some of the game's lustre as an event.

"These ads are costly," says Brian Steinberg, TV editor for Advertising Age magazine. "The production values add a couple of million dollars on top of the ad buy price … If you're a first timer or a small company who gets into these things, they're probably blowing all of their marketing budget on one ad."

With this kind of cash at stake, U.S. advertisers want to focus on their target market, says Steinberg. "I think the ads are aiming first at the U.S. audience, and I don't think Canadians are the biggest users of GoDaddy, or these other one-shot ads."

But Rick Brace, CTV's president of Revenue, Business Planning and Sports, says that GoDaddy has bought time on his network's broadcast, along with Nissan, Ford, Dodge, Kia, Labatt, Universal Studios and Pepsi, which has produced two spots especially for the Canadian market. While the buy-in for time on the Canadian broadcast isn't as rich as the $3 million US NBC is asking for a 30-second spot — CTV won't reveal what its spots cost, though Brace says, "It's a premium product and we sell it as such," — 4.2 million Canadian viewers did tune into last year's game in English Canada, making it one of the top four TV events of the year.

NFL Super Bowl XLIII

Geography might mean a lot to a TV network, but it's nearly irrelevant on the Internet, and Brace says that most Super Bowl ads will be online within hours, even minutes, of their Sunday premiere. Steinberg says that for now, however, the broadcast event is still paramount. "They will be all over YouTube, but the biggest audience you'll get in one fell swoop will be on that TV screen … It's nice to get some ancillary buzz, but the U.S. consumer base is their main customer."

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Rick's TVPicks

The Musical Brain

Air date: Jan. 31
Network: CTV

The centrepiece scene in this documentary is probably Sting getting an MRI to help medical science understand how musicians' brains work. The great unanswered question, however, is why so many people like crap music.

Charles The Passionate Prince

Air date: Feb. 1
Network: CBC Newsworld

This heavily burnished BBC documentary follows Prince Charles around for a year on the eve of his 60th birthday, and how his long stay in the waiting room of monarchy has turned him into one of Britain's most relentless lobbyists.

The Global Hunt For Mr. Swirl

Air date: Feb. 2
Network: CBC Newsworld

Canada became a setting in an Interpol manhunt four years ago when they discovered that the anonymous object of a pedophilia investigation was one Christopher Neil of British Columbia, though the Internet was the real location where he was unmasked, as detailed in this gruesome British documentary.

–RICK MCGINNIS
/METRO CANADA

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR AIR TIMES

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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FRIDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/30/09	265	353	2	TVO	Feast Greece	Feast Greece	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat (N)		Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)		NUMB3RS (HDTV)		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Comedy Now		Stargate SG-1		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Flashpoint (HDTV)		Raising the Bar (N)		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	Just for Laughs (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)		Dateline NBC		News (N)
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Flashpoint (HDTV)		NUMB3RS (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mantracker	Mantracker	Survivorman		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		20/20 (HDTV)		20/20		News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wife Swap (N)		20/20 (HDTV)		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House "Not Cancer"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		News (N)		News
news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Columbus Blue Jackets. (Live)					Overtime	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Toronto Raptors. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Misadventures	Futurama	Father of Pride	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	*The Cheetah Girls: One World* (2008)			*Cadet Kelly* ★★ (2002, Comedy-Drama)			*The Thirteenth Year* ★★	
	551	542	65	YTV	*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* ★★★ (2005, Comedy-Drama)					Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: NY "Sweet 16"		CSI: NY "Raising Shane"		DEA "DEA vs. Heroin Kingpin"		DEA "Deadly Chase" (HDTV)		DEA (HDTV)
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's Inquest		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Discovery Project Earth		Man vs. Wild "Australia"		Deranged (N)		Daily Planet
	581	566	53	MTV	Degrassi	City Live After	MTV Presents: Summer		A Double Shot at Love		The City	The City	City Live After
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Skeletons"		Shockwave		Urban Legends	Urban Legends	Ax Men		Jobs in Danger
	603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay Kitchn

SATURDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/31/09	265	353	2	TVO	National Geographic (N)		*O Lucky Man!* ★★★ (1973, Comedy) Malcolm McDowell, Ralph Richardson.						The Interviews
	211	331	3	GTV	Real Fight Club		Masterminds	Masterminds	Tank Overhaul		Go Deep "Speed Sailing"		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	The Road to Avonlea		*Guilt by Association* ★★ (2002, Drama) Mercedes Ruehl.				Comedy Now (DVS)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	W-FIVE-Musical Brain		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey: Wild at Canucks		
	-	360	9	NBC	St. Jude's Children's Hospital		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		Saturday Night Live Sports Extra (PA)				Local 4 News
	-	362	13	CBS	Paid Program	The Insider (N)	Super Bowl-Commercials		NCIS "Recoil" (HDTV)		48 Hours Mystery (N)		CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	*The Luckiest Man* (2008, Comedy-Drama) Ronald Cheng.				Omni News: Mandarin		Chinese Rest.
	214	344	15	CITY	Without a Trace		Less-Kind	Kaya	*Fatal Reunion* (2005, Suspense) Erika Eleniak.				News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	Chef School	E News	*Her Sister's Keeper* (2006, Suspense) Dahlia Salem.				Show Yours	G-Spot	News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Entertainment Tonight		*Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (2004, Comedy)				Life on Mars (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	Bernie Mac	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News (N)		Spike Feresten
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Newsroom
sports	406	417	27	net	UFC: Access	UFC Primetime	UFC Primetime	UFC Primetime	UFC 94: The Ultimate Rush		PartyPoker.net World Open IV		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Humanima	Découverte (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Grands reportages		La Facture	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Tennis Australian Open -- Women's Final.				SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
family	554	544	48	TEL	*Beetlejuice* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton.				Carl2	Futurama	*Mars Attacks!* ★★ (1996, Comedy)		
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Miracle* ★★★ (2004, Drama) Kurt Russell.			*Look Who's Talking Now*	
	551	542	65	YTV	Team Galaxy	Team Galaxy	Zixx Level	Storm Hawks	Naruto	Bleach	Ghost	Ghost	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Tinder Box"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Beast
	628	584	32	SPKE	When Good Pets Go Bad		When Good Pets Go Bad 2		*Lake Placid* ★ (1999, Horror) Bill Pullman, Oliver Platt.				Stunts Go Bad
	616	521	39	SHO	Mutant X "Fool for Love"		*Second Sight* (2007, Drama) Lexa Doig, Ty Olsson.				*Click* ★★ (2006, Comedy) Adam Sandler.		
	520	505	42	DIS	Cash Cab (N)	Out in the Cold	Toughest Race: Iditarod		Destroyed	Time Warp	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Guinea Pig (N)
	581	566	53	MTV	MTV Live	After	MTV Presents: Summer		MTV News	After	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Head Case"		Ancestors	Ancestors	*Sahara* ★★ (2005, Adventure) Matthew McConaughey, Steve Zahn.				
	603	561	95	FN	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Top Chef Super Bowl cook-off.			Good Eats	Hell's Kitchen		The F Word

SUNDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 2/1/09	265	353	2	TVO	Victoria's Empire		Child Genius 2		When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts "Acts I & II"				View From Hr
	211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	American Dad	Family Guy	American Dad	Family Guy	The Office (HDTV) (N)	
	209	342	6	CHRO	Funniest Home Videos		Cold Case (HDTV)		*Waydowntown* ★★ (2000, Comedy) Fabrizio Filippo.				News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	(6) NFL Football Super Bowl XLIII -- Arizona Cardinals vs. Pittsburgh Steelers. (HDTV) (Live)							The Mentalist (HDTV)	
	208	303	8	CBC	Heartland (HDTV) (DVS)		*Marple: Murder Is Easy* (2008, Mystery) Julia McKenzie.				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		Who Do-Think
	-	360	9	NBC	(6) NFL Football Super Bowl XLIII -- Arizona Cardinals vs. Pittsburgh Steelers. (HDTV) (Live)							The Office (HDTV) (N)	
	-	362	13	CBS	CBS Reports (N)		Cold Case (HDTV)		The Unit "Sacrifice"		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Tongues: History Language		Aaram	Arirang Korea	Word for Word	Trendy Zone	The Quest of Buffalo Spirit		Of Blessings
	214	344	15	CITY	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Murdoch Mysteries		Murdoch Mysteries		Murdoch Mysteries		News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	The Best Years (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Tutwiler Family" (N)				Inside Hollywood		News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Wipeout		Wipeout		Wipeout (Live)		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		The Simpsons	American Dad	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)		Sportsworks
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
sports	406	417	27	net	UFC: Access	World Combat	World Combat League		World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Marie-Claude	Une heure sur Terre (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Coulisses du pouvoir		Regard	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	Tennis Australian Open -- Men's Final. From Melbourne, Australia.						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Totally Spies	6TEEN	6TEEN	Carl2	Futurama	*Team America: World Police* (2004)		
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Around the World in 80 Days* ★★ (2004)			*Michael* (1996, Drama)	
	551	542	65	YTV	(6) *Are We There Yet?*		SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Adrenaline	Zixx Level	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scn
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard "Waheguru"		*Destination: Infestation* (2007, Suspense)				Damages (N)		The Guard
	520	505	42	DIS	MythBusters		Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed	MythBusters (N)		A. Bourdain
	581	566	53	MTV	MTV Presents: Summer		Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	After
	522	506	55	HIS	Death on the Eastern Front		Death on the Eastern Front		*Cross of Iron* ★★★ (1977, War) James Coburn, Maximilian Schell.				
	603	561	95	FN	The Wild Chef	Exotic	Challenge		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		The Heat

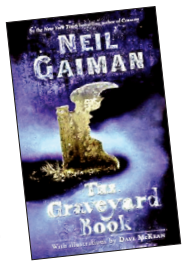
Wax figure of Michelle is next

Michelle Obama is being immortalized in wax by Madame Tussauds wax museum. The figure will be unveiled in March after six months of work by designers who studied photos and videos of Michelle. INTOUCHWEEKLY.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

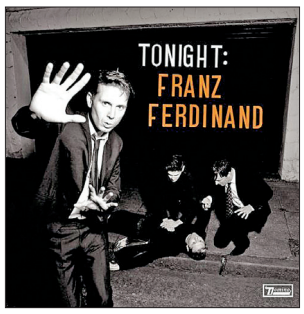


BOOK Gaiman's story about a boy raised by a vampire, a werewolf and a witch may have won the John Newbery Medal — the top prize for children's literature — but the tale's eerie edge cuts across age groups. Really, this is one giant spookfest for the entire family.

2 Vicky Cristina Barcelona

DVD Woody Allen's twisted and irreverent take on all things love, replete with ménage a trois, adultery and violent passion. A fiery Penelope Cruz sizzles in the Spanish sun and Javier Bardem kills with those bedroom eyes. Not recommended for Valentine's Day viewing.

3 Tonight/Franz Ferdinand



ALBUM The Scottish foursome are back with what they do best — getting a party started. Their third album holds some serious grooves, mixing post-punk beats with 21st century cool. And some mellow moments — perfect for the morning after.

4 Super Bowl ads

ADS Come Sunday there will be football frenzy, munch parties, and some of the best commercials you'll see on TV this year. A 2008 favourite: Bridgestone Tires — Driving down a country road in the middle of the night. Deer happens. So does Alice Cooper. Thank goodness for those wheels.

5 Caesar and Cleopatra

FILM Get a taste of Canadian theatre — on the silver screen. This filmed version of The Stratford Shakespeare festival's acclaimed production of the George Bernard Shaw play is the perfect antidote to the Oscar bug. Playing at select Cineplex theatres.

6 Project Runway Canada: Second Season

TV SHOW Haute couture. High drama. Supermodel host Iman. Fourteen aspiring designers. One winner. Enough said. Catch it every Tuesday at 10 p.m. on Global.

7 Cupid Cup

DRINK As Valentine's Day frenzy gears up for its yearly romance bonanza, Belvedere Vodka serves up some liquid love, perfect for you and your snuggle partner. Mix 1 oz Belvedere Cytrus with equal amount of white cranberry juice. Top it with champagne and garnish with berry of choice.

Berlin's theatrical duo Die Roten Punkte bring their fun and provocative punk pop show to Ottawa this Saturday.

Mix of Six

For more great events around the city, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

United Steelworkers of Montreal

When: Saturday, 8:30 p.m
Where: Blacksheep Inn, 420 Riverside Dr., Wakefield

With elements of rock, bluegrass, folk and blues influencing their sound, this Montreal-based musical outfit offers a little something for everyone. Special guests Darling DeMaes. Tickets are $10 in advance through ticketweb.ca.

Belle Moral: A Natural History

When: Friday through Feb. 14
Where: National Arts Centre, Studio

This funny and intelligent play about a curious woman named Pearl MacIsaac — a hit at the Shaw Festival — makes a stop in Ottawa. Written by Anne-Marie MacDonald and directed by Alisa Palmer. Tickets are $19.75-$42 through ticketmaster.ca or the NAC box office.

What's Right With This Picture

When: Sunday through Feb. 6
Where: Timothy's World Coffee, 843 Bank St. in The Glebe

Travel the world through pictures with this inspiring exhibit by CHF. Sunday's opening features refreshments and a silent auction from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more info visit chf-partners.ca.

Cherry Poppin' Daddies

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr.

A musical fusion of jazz, big band, swing and a taste of punk is what Cherry Poppin' Daddies bring to their unforgettable live show. Tickets are $42.50-$59.50 through centrepointetheatre.com or by calling 613-580-2700.

Die Roten Punkte

When: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: The Mercury Lounge, 56 Byward Market Sq.

Acclaimed theatrical duo Die Roten Punkte bring their fun and provocative punk pop show from Berlin to Ottawa. Tickets are $10 at the door.

Luther Wright

When: Friday, 9 p.m.
Where: Elmdale House Tavern, 1084 Wellington St. W.

It's hard not to get up and boogie when alt-country masters Luther Wright and The Wrongs play. Special guests The Chislers. Cover is $10.

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Going Away

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Following the A-list to Anguilla

Despite its sprinkling of stardust, this tiny island has lots to offer lower-profile visitors

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada

DAVID WHITLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

Left, a massage hut by the beach at Shoal Bay East, Anguilla. Right, the stunning infinity pool at the CuisinArt Resort.

Going around Anguilla feels a bit like stalking. It seems as though every spot on the island has a celebrity rumour attached to it — the restaurant that P. Diddy likes to visit, the bar where Robert De Niro made cocktails for a joke, the villa where Denzel Washington threw his 50th birthday party. And that's just skimming the surface.

In recent years Anguilla has become the upmarket celebrity hang-out of choice. It's seriously A-list, with a guest roster that includes the Clintons, Al Gore, Brad Pitt and repeat visitor Beyoncé.

It wasn't always like this. Historically, the tiny British Caribbean territory was rather poor. It has next to nothing in the way of natural resources and is barely big enough to fit a small airport, let alone one that can accept jet planes.

But what it does have is beaches. Anguilla regularly crops up on lists of the world's best beaches, and it's usually Shoal Bay East they have in mind. This is the one that the day trippers from other islands come to, and it has dazzlingly white sands. Those celebs are well within their rights to keep shades on all the time here.

In truth, though, Anguilla has half-a-dozen such world-class beaches. Rendezvous Bay on the island's west end is among those; and one of the swankiest joints on the island, the CuisinArt Resort and Spa, looks out over the beach.

It's visually stunning, with water from the pool funnelling off over the horizon and gleaming Greek-style white buildings facing the Caribbean Sea. The suites are enormous, the balconies have views to kill for and there's a lobster banquet twice a week.

It doesn't take long to realize why the hotshot CEOs and Hollywood stars come here. Michael J Fox, Celine Dion and Jay-Z are among the big names that have stayed at CuisinArt.

One of the other reasons that the rich and famous choose Anguilla is the locals. They're possibly the least star-struck people on earth.

There's no harassment for autographs or squawking mobs following every footstep — the Anguillans are quite happy to leave their visitors alone, and it's that peace and privacy that appeals.

The VIPs pay for it too. One step beyond the costly resorts are the ultra-expensive private villas that come with their own chefs and butler service.

The Altamer, for example, costs a minimum of $30,000 US per week — and that excludes food. But the celebs don't care — it's pocket change, and they'll often have the bill signed off without checking the amount.

The ordinary pleb isn't priced out, however. There are still a few outposts that remain true to the original Anguilla.

One is Tasty's in South Hill, which is unquestionably the best value restaurant on the island. It's bright, it's colourful and the food has a proper Caribbean flavour, thanks to Chef Dale Carty, who is a local. The fresh fish is always good, but the goat curry is the true stand-out.

Tasty's is also the place that the Anguillans rave about, so your fellow diners will include islanders — you'll not just be eating with other tourists, unlike in some of the more prestigious joints where the prices are three or four times more expensive.

The other defiantly unglammed-up option is Lloyds. It's the oldest hotel on the island, dating back to 1959 when there was no electricity, let alone paved roads. It's now a little yellow guest house of the best kind. The staff are friendly, guests chat over breakfast together and a couple of long-term residents offer to give newcomers the inside track on the island.

It attracts an extraordinarily diverse bunch, which is in contrast to the American-heavy clientele the rest of the island gets. Kiwi wedding parties, Swedish backpackers, Italian families and Trinidadian health workers all sit around and swap stories.

Anguilla may have a heavy sprinkling of stardust, but it's still possible for the average Joe to enjoy Caribbean cocktails and glistening beaches in the ultimate Hollywood hang-out.

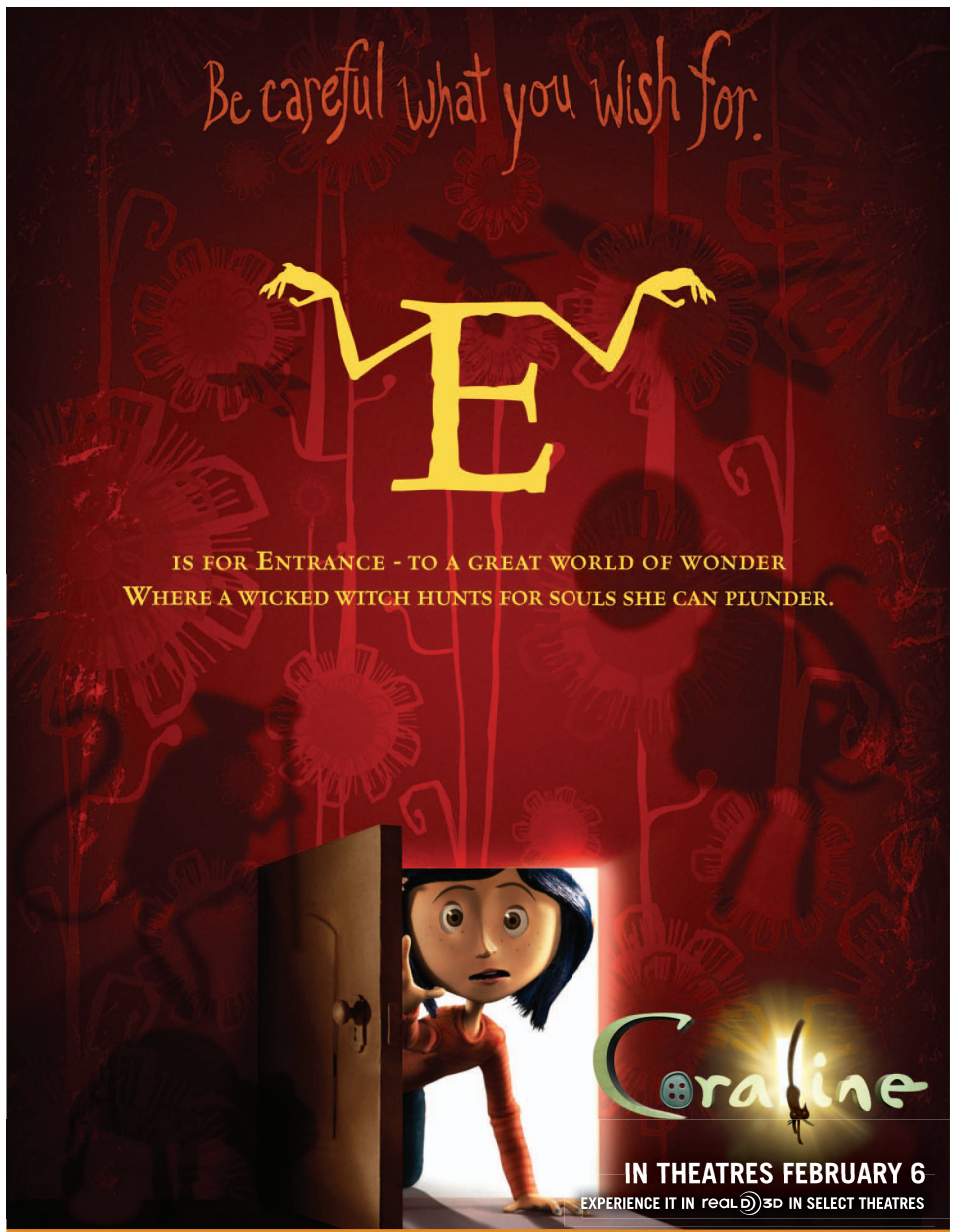
Anguilla

Getting there: There are no direct flights to Anguilla from outside the Caribbean. Most visitors will either get the ferry over from St. Martin or fly with LIAT from Antigua, liatairline.com.

Staying there: Suites at the CuisinArt Resort and Spa, cuisinartresort.com, start at $475 US a night, while rooms at Lloyds, lloyds.ai, start at $75 a night. If you have to ask how much it is per night at The Altamer, altamerresort.com, you're in the wrong place.

Info: See anguilla-vacation.com for ideas on where to eat, drink and go sightseeing.

DAVID WHITLEY/ FOR METRO CANADA



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Not a wrestler for real
Looks like Mickey Rourke won't be stepping into the ring for WWE's Wrestlemania after all. Rourke was approached by WWE to make an appearance at the big event, but his rep has drop-kicked the plan. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

My weight reflects my life: Allen

PEOPLE Lily Allen says she has many reasons to "smile." The singer is feeling better with herself — and when she feels good, she keeps the weight off, people.com reports.

While promoting her new album It's Not Me, Allen, 23, says life "feels good," the press is treating her more kindly and the secret to being content with her body is to halt her urge to order French fries from room service in order to fill the happiness gap.

"The only reason I have lost weight is because I comfort eat when I'm not very happy," Allen tells U.K. tabloid the Sun.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jagger headed for clothing line?

DESIGNER Mick Jagger has fuelled speculation he's set to follow in pal Dave Stewart's fashionable footsteps after meeting colourful designer Christian Audigier in Los Angeles on Wednesday, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The rocker and a bodyguard were spotted entering Audigier's office in Beverly Hills. The designer teamed up with Stewart in 2008 to launch the Rock Fabulous clothing line at Audigier's When I Move You Move trade show in Las Vegas.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ScarJo's relationship advice? Dump him

RELATIONSHIPS Scarlett Johansson is "in love with love," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The He's Just Not That Into You star, who married her boyfriend Ryan Reynolds in a secret ceremony in September, is still crazy for Ryan but isn't sure if the romance will fade in time.

When asked about the impact marriage has on relationships, Johansson replied: "I have no perspective on that — you should ask me in 25 years.

"I am really in love with love. I'm a lover not a fighter. I'm a real lover."

The 24-year-old actress also revealed she regularly encourages her friends to end their relationships when they turn to her for advice.

She added to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: "My friends and I talk about relationships and I probably over-analyze everything. But I usually come back to the same thing, 'If this person is making you crazy or doubt yourself, then get rid of him.'

"I always sort of come back to that. Whether or not my girlfriends stay with the guy at the time, they usually end up parting ways in the end."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

I'm not dumb, Paris says

IMAGE Paris Hilton says she sometimes acts dumb on television to get laughs, but in real life she's "a strong person" who's been through a lot, people.com reports.

Appearing on the British morning show GMTV to launch her new reality show Paris Hilton's British Best Friend, Hilton, 27, said she cultivated her dumb blonde image for her hit FOX reality show The Simple Life, co-starring Nicole Richie, and it became her shtick.

"For five seasons I was stuck doing this character," she says. "It was kind of hard always having to play that character when it's not who I am."

She adds, "I just say jokes but they think I'm serious, which I think is funny, and I think I kind of play up the image sometimes because — whatever — it's just entertainment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

West boasts of shoe caretaker

FASHION Kanye West pays someone to clean his shoes, according to femalefirst.co.uk. The Stronger singer boasts he is so rich he hires someone to "take care" of his shoes — all 450 pairs of them.

He said: "I hire someone specially to take care of my shoes. They clean them, box them and take a picture of them so it's easier to find them."

West recently announced he had changed his name after launching a new range of footwear for Louis Vuitton, which was unveiled during Paris Fashion Week last week.

In a video message on his blog, the rapper said: "Due to what has happened — what has happened so severely when the red shoes hit the runway, I was forced to change my name to Martin Louis the King Jr. Address me as such."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rowland drops her manager Knowles

CAREER Kelly Rowland has parted ways with her manager, Béyonce Knowles' father, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Destiny's Child singer and Mathew Knowles — who has managed Kelly since she was in the successful girl group and also looks after his daughters Beyoncé and Solange — agreed to separate earlier this week, with both parties insisting the split is "amicable."

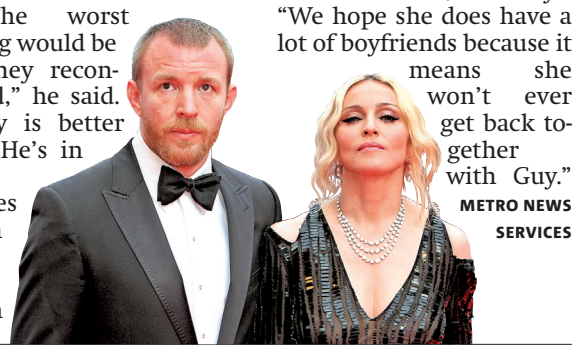
It has been reported Rowland decided to call time on their professional relationship following a huge argument with the 58-year-old manager.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ritchie's 'better off'

PEOPLE Madonna and Guy Ritchie's split may have looked ugly, but Ritchie's dad, John, tells In Touch that filing for divorce last October was a smart move.

"The worst thing would be if they reconciled," he said. "Guy is better off. He's in the States with the children at the moment." The older Ritchie notes that his former daughter-in-law is also moving on just fine. "She's been here with a chap, a friend of hers," he says. "We hope she does have a lot of boyfriends because it means she won't ever get back together with Guy."

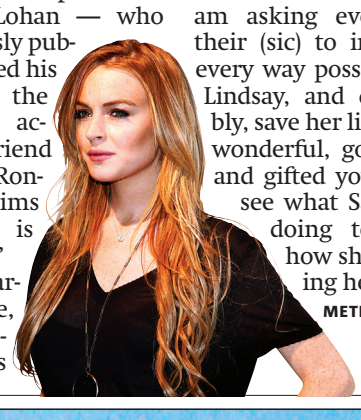


METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan's life in danger, her father says in blog

PLEA Lindsay Lohan's father has begged her fans to "intervene" to save her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Michael Lohan — who has previously publicly discussed his hatred of the Mean Girls actress' girlfriend Samantha Ronson — claims Samantha is "destroying" the 22-year-old star's life, and is desperate for as many people as possible to try to convince her to leave the relationship.



He wrote on his blog: "I am asking everyone out their (sic) to intervene in every way possible to help Lindsay, and quite possibly, save her life. Help this wonderful, good hearted and gifted young lady to see what SaMANtha is doing to her and how she is destroying her life."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Saturday Variable -11° / -16°

Sunday 80% Light snow -1° / -6°

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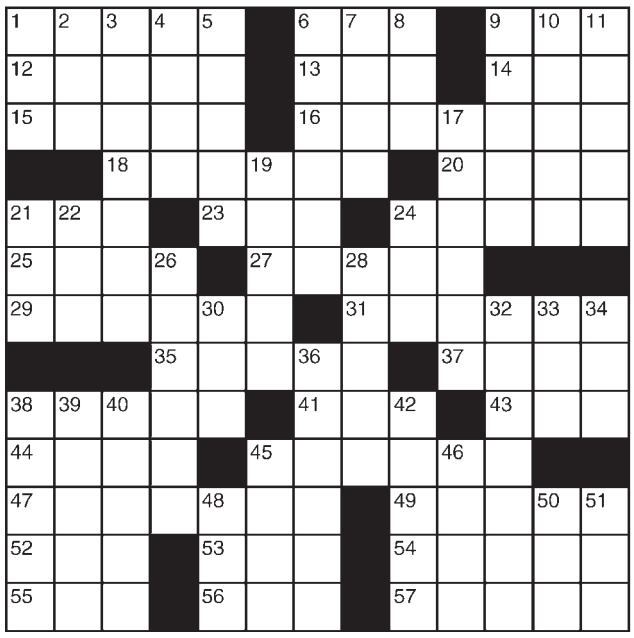

Crossword across

1 Ballroom offering
6 Peculiar
9 Bando of baseball lore
12 Hardly a brainiac
13 Sheepish remark
14 Expert
15 Having melody and harmony
16 Mad. Ave. music
18 Report card data
20 Ceremony
21 Hooter
23 Uncorrected
24 Western
25 Weeding tools
27 Cram, perhaps
29 Tile art
31 Actor Liam
35 Perch
37 Pebbles' pet
38 Inert gas
41 Second sequel notation
43 Different
44 Subsequently
45 Have membership
47 Paresthetic feelings
49 Cardiff's land
52 Singer DiFranco
53 Nevertheless
54 Vertical
55 Hatchery supply
56 Mound stat
57 Spiteful

Crossword down

1 Pose for a picture
2 Commotion
3 Rubs elbows
4 Piglet's papa
5 Rand's shrugger
6 Thing
7 Lectern location
8 Author Brown
9 Alley oops?
10 Mountain ridge
11 Runner-up
17 Showed signs of aging
19 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
21 Resistance measure
22 "Face/Off" director John
24 Praise in verse
26 Muumuu alternative
28 Up to the time that
30 Charged bit
32 Tennis match, often
33 Inseparable
34 Promptly
36 Nap
38 Oil of roses
39 African beast
40 Spirit in a bottle
42 Hawkeye
45 Batter ingredient, at times
46 California wine valley
48 Caustic solution
50 Have a bite
51 Firmament

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4		9		3		6	
9								4
		7	4		1	9		
	5		8	1	6		7	
	8						5	
	2		3	5	9		1	
		1	7		8	2		
3								1
	6		1		5		8	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	R	M	S	■	G	A	T	■
S	H	A	H	■	O	V	A	■
P	E	R	I	■	T	E	L	■
S	A	L	L	O	W	■	C	R
■	■	■	O	N	O	■	■	I
O	U	C	H	■	R	E	N	D
U	S	A	■	■	S	E	E	■
R	E	T	I	C	E	N	T	■
■	■	W	O	O	■	■	W	O
A	T	O	D	D	S	■	O	R
S	E	M	I	■	A	P	R	■
I	R	A	N	■	R	A	T	■
S	I	N	E	■	A	S	H	■

O	A	H	U		1	3	7	8	9	4	5	6	2
P	R	I	G		6	5	4	3	1	2	9	7	8
I	T	L	L		9	2	8	5	7	6	3	4	1
A	W	L	Y		4	8	1	9	3	7	6	2	5
I	T	O	■		5	6	3	2	4	8	7	1	9
R	E	D	E		7	9	2	1	6	5	4	8	3
K	E	A	■		8	7	5	4	2	9	1	3	6
A	S	K	S		3	4	9	6	8	1	2	5	7
■	■	■	■		2	1	6	7	5	3	8	9	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Pasta and Tuna Salad with Zucchini and Sundried Tomato Pesto

INGREDIENTS:
250 g pasta twists or spirals, such as fusilli or rotini
2 tbsp (25 ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
2 zucchinis, thinly sliced
2 tsp (10 ml) caster sugar
2 tbsp (25 ml) sun-dried tomato pesto
1 tbsp (15 ml) white or red wine vinegar
2 tbsp (25 ml) capers
6 tomatoes, skinned, halved and cut into thin wedges
1 can (6 oz/170 g) tuna in water, drained and roughly flaked
6 black olives (not oil-packed), pitted and halved
Fresh Italian parsley to garnish

METHOD:
1. Cook pasta in boiling water according to the package instructions, until just al dente. Drain pasta, rinse with cold water and drain again.
2. While pasta is cooking, heat half of olive oil in medium saucepan. Add onion and garlic, and fry 3 minutes, stirring frequently, until softened. Add remaining olive oil and zucchinis and cook, stirring occasionally, 3 minutes.
3. Add sugar, sun-dried tomato pesto, wine vinegar and capers to onion and zucchini mixture. Heat for a few seconds, stirring until all ingredients have combined to form a dressing.
4. Stir in tomatoes, then transfer mixture to large mixing bowl and set aside to cool.
5. Add drained pasta to bowl, then gently mix in tuna and black olives. Divide salad among 4 plates or transfer to large serving bowl. Serve garnished with some Italian parsley leaves.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A truthful confession causes a friendship to ripen. Put off accepting an offer for a few weeks. No bad deed will be unpunished.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An apology comes up after a family argument. A hypochondriac finally arrives in style. You'll start something, only to be interrupted.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Control your temper with a casual acquaintance. Stay out of dead-end friendships. Problems involve a tidal wave of indecision.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An exciting experience is offered by an older man. A distressed person causes a travel delay. You can't get a grip on what must be done.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A heart is broken by an unsettling decision. People are losing patience with what ails you. Random acts of kindness will make your day.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Try a new approach to job difficulties. There'll be complaints about faulty equipment. Enjoy taking a flight of fancy with a manager.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone warms the cockles of your heart. Things will go right, for a change. Listen closely to a mystical story.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A painful condition is caused by a bad habit. A colleague will disappear within two weeks. Careless supervision becomes an issue.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You can start living life on your own terms. Accidents cause travel mayhem. Share the benefits of your labour.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A foot ailment needs a soothing bath. Delay making a major purchase. A missing loved one needs more empathetic treatment.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Restrain your temper over wacky behaviour. A loved one is struggling with a blessing in disguise. A report provokes curiosity and wonder.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You'll be accused of sleep-walking through life. A qualified person has the best news. Shrug off a misunderstanding until later.

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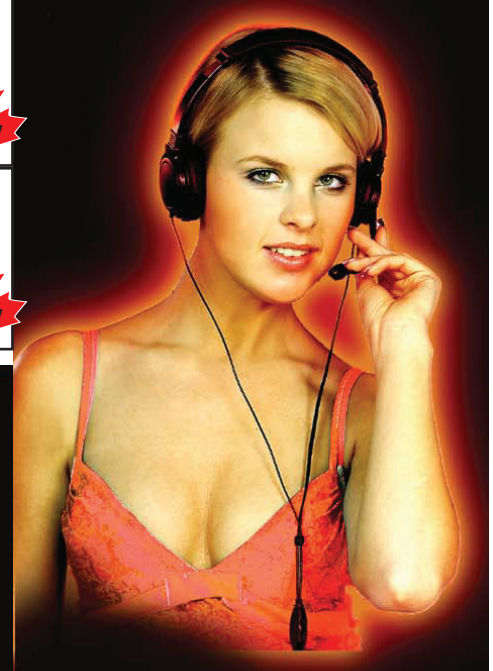

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